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Boardwalk to be installed at Jeffrey's Beach

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Jeffrey's Beach in Talofofo will soon have a much-needed facelift.

To enhance its shoreline and to increase public access to beaches, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, through its

Access to Jeffrey's Beach in Talofofo is about to get better with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Jeffrey's Beach Boardwalk Project.

L. MAURIN

Division of Coastal Resources Management, is currently working on the Jeffrey's Beach

See BOARDWALK on Page 4

Body found at Bird Island

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

The body of a still unidentified man was found in the outer cove of Bird Island yesterday afternoon.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Adrian Pangelinan confirmed last night that two hikers found the body lying on the sand near the water.

He said the body was already decomposing.

Pangelinan was unable to provide more details as he was still waiting for

See BODY on Page 4



A firefighter wades in the water on his way to an outer cove at Bird Island where a decomposing body was found by two hikers yesterday afternoon. Police are still investigating the case.

DEREK GERSONDE

BOE: Where's our money? DOF: Where's the request?

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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 REPORTER

While the Board of Education laments that the Department of Finance has yet to remit funds specifically intended to repair schools on Saipan, Finance notes that some schools have yet

to ask for it.

BOE chair Janice Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that the Finance Department has yet to remit the money allocated to public schools under the recently passed Saipan Local Law 21-10, which was enacted last Oct. 3.

"We haven't received some of the [supplemental appropriations] but we will receive some soon because we have been working with the Finance [Department]," she said Friday.

The Public School System reported to the BOE

See BOE on Page 4

7 who sued IPI directed to file memo under seal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona directed yesterday the seven construction workers who are suing Imperial

Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and its contractor and a subcontractor to file under seal their response to an IPI motion that wants the case stayed or suspended.

Manglona's court order was in response to a request by

the plaintiffs' lawyers, Aaron Halegua and Bruce Berline, to direct them to file their memorandum of law under seal.

Last Nov. 19, Manglona issued a *sua sponte* order sealing two exhibits attached to IPI's

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LOCAL

Katie Hoyt moved to Saipan two years ago has already made the CNMI her home.

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BUSINESS

Alipay, which is the world's largest payment platform, is looking to enter the CNMI.

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NATION

Billionaire and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is running for president.

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 **GOT A NEWS TIP?**

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Local

Katie Hoyt: Making melody on the islands

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Editor's Note: This article is part of "Spotlight," a recurring series featuring CNMI personalities. To suggest a person to feature in this section, email us at editor@saipantribune.com.

Today's Spotlight moved to

Saipan from Utah two years ago. While she may not be originally from the islands, she has made the CNMI her home, and has been bringing sweet music to the Marianas' most precious gems, its children. Our melody maker—Katie Hoyt.



Hoyt came from the small town of Price, in Utah, where she was a young musical prodigy, entering and winning competitions, which eventually led her to receiving academic and music scholarships at the Dixie State University, under the tutelage of esteemed pianist,

Dr. Nancy Allred.

"I was a big fish in a small pond as far as music was concerned, because there just wasn't a lot," Hoyt said. "My parents both were really supportive [when I was] growing up. They took me to my lessons. They knew I loved it and they went with it."

"I was able to do a lot of



Piano and voice teacher Katie Hoyt brings music to the children of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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competitions and do well. It was a lot of fun and we were able to travel. We would go further up north in Utah to compete in the big city in groups and solos, and then we would also go to California to perform at different venues that were there."

From Utah, Hoyt flew to Saipan two years ago with her husband, Lane, who, at that time, had just gotten a job with the Public School System.

"My husband is also from the same city. We met each other in seventh grade. We have a lot of things in common, we sang together a lot in high school and then we both went off to the same college. We were two musical peas in a pod. He likes sharing music," Hoyt said.

With her husband starting a music career teaching on the island, Hoyt had no clue what her career was going to be like. She initially worked as a substitute at William S. Reyes Elementary School, and then taught fourth grade for about five months.

"It was really tough for me teaching elementary school and I realized that music is my thing," Hoyt said. "I missed it a lot. I realized that is where I can make an impact. So I decided, I don't care if there's no market for it. Whoever wants to take lessons, I'm going to give them. We have my husband's city job. I'm just going to go with it."

Her musical instincts paid off. Hoyt now has 35 students learning to play the piano, is a part of Friends of the Arts, and is even starting a youth choir.

"I fell in love with the people. The people are amazing

here. They are my best students too. They look forward to recitals. We get to perform. It is good. I love Saipan and it's becoming home for me," she said.

Hoyt thinks the best part of living on Saipan are the children. "The children are amazing," she said. "The children that I teach, I think they teach me. That sounds so cliché, but they teach me more than anything I've learned before I came here."

Since moving to Saipan, Hoyt has adjusted and has become less of the "slightly stricter" teacher that she was back in Utah.

"I'm a more positive teacher now because I wanted to make sure I'm getting the kids and they shouldn't have to change. They should be able to overcome certain obstacles that come along with music. If something's not working for them, I figure out how to instruct them. It has been amazing."

From saying yes to a Saipan adventure in 2017, Hoyt has finally found her niche here and, like many people who have moved to Saipan, Hoyt has nothing but admiration for the island.

"I love it here, and I love teaching. If I did this for the rest of my life, I would be extremely happy. I want to make sure kids have the opportunity to use music and as long as I do that, I am happy."

Aside from private piano lessons, Hoyt also teaches private voice and flute lessons, and group piano and ukulele lessons. To know more about her, visit <https://www.harmoniouslessons.com>.

OUT OF \$12M IN RESTRICTED ACCOUNT

CUC releases \$6M to fix, rehabilitate power engines

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board has authorized the release of \$6 million from a restricted account for the emergency repair and overhaul of power engines at Power Plant 1 and to possibly pay for a temporary electric power supply that might be used while the engines are down for repair.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said yesterday that the board has agreed that the release of the amount is needed to address any other costs associated with the power emergency right now at CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base.

Camacho said that during last Thursday's meeting, the board agreed to take the \$6 million from the \$12 million that is in a restricted account that was specifically intended to buy a power engine to replace power engine No. 8.

That would mean that the plan to replace engine No. 8, which Camacho said has been ongoing for quite some time now, will have to be put on hold.

As to why CUC might need to solicit for a temporary power supply, Camacho pointed out that CUC's engines would be turned off one at a time during overhauls. During that time, CUC would still be required to have a reserve capacity available during that downtime. That would also require the overhauls to be rushed, he added.

Camacho said repair of engine No. 6 is estimated to cost \$300,000.

He said overhaul of engine No. 5, which is a large 13-megawatt unit, is projected to cost \$2 million. Just the assessment and repair of a block on engine No. 5 is expected to cost \$200,000.

Camacho said engine No. 7 needs a major overhaul that is estimated to cost \$2 million.

He said they've wanted to do the overhauls earlier but CUC ended up redirecting the budget for this to the restoration efforts in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, and that they are still waiting for reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The plan is, once FEMA reimburses CUC, that \$6 million taken from the restricted

account will be replenished, Camacho said, adding that any unused funds from the \$6 million will also be returned to the restricted account.

Camacho said the solicitation for temporary power supply for approximately 12 megawatts is estimated to cost \$1.29 million. "That's the amount based on the estimate. That's a budget. So we are trying to get that so we have that backup power supply," he said.

Camacho said the technical engineer from Mann BMW out of Singapore, which is

one of the two original engine manufacturers of these units, came to Saipan last Wednesday and has been working with CUC staff last week and all weekend.

"They're working on the main gear of engine No. 5 and moving to engine No. 6 and hoping to try to get engine No. 6 operational, hopefully within the next week and a half," he said.

Camacho said that CUC has been able to meet the power demand so far and that their reserve power is supplied by some of the hotels. He said they have been working with Kensington Hotel and another hotel to take up the slack for just a couple of hours at a time

during peak hours.

"But we have informed most of the hotels in the event we need them and some...self-generating agencies that, if in case we need them, we will coordinate with them," he said.

Last week, CUC requested about eight hotels, including Imperial Pacific Resort, to self-generate electric power at their establishments during peak hours, as power engine No. 5 at CUC's Power Plant 1 in Lower Base has is damaged.

Engine No. 5, which produces 11 megawatts of power supply, experienced a failure last Nov. 16, causing an outage in some areas on Saipan.

Camacho said an action

plan has been put together to address the issue with engine No. 5 and CUC's limited power capacity.

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Man allegedly chokes girlfriend

A man was arrested Saturday for allegedly choking his girlfriend in As Terlaje.

Vincent Terlaje, 40, was arrested on charges of strangulation, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 16 at 9am.

According to detective Buddy S. Igitol, police officers responded to a disturbance call at an apartment in As Lito last Saturday at 2:39am.

Igitol said the officer met the caller, who stated that when he called his cousin on the phone she appeared to have been crying due to a domestic violence incident with her boyfriend, Terlaje.

The officer, along with two other officers, checked Ter-

laje's residence in As Terlaje, where they saw the two.

The girlfriend told the officers that Terlaje strangled her minutes prior to their arrival.

The girlfriend alleged that they had argument when her phone constantly rang and he refused to give it to her.

Terlaje also allegedly refused her request to drop her back home.

She got off the vehicle and started to walk from the home's premises. Terlaje allegedly pulled her hair and shoved her. He allegedly strangled her for a couple of seconds. She felt disoriented and told him she was feeling like she was going to pass out.

She told police it was not the first time that her boyfriend had strangled her.

Police said Terlaje denied the accusation. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

SHEFA deadline on Dec. 2

Interested in applying for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance scholarship?

SHEFA is now accepting applications for new and returning applicants. The deadline for spring 2020 applications is on Monday, Dec. 2. The deadline to submit spring 2020 supporting documents is on Feb. 28, 2020.

Applications are available online at www.saipanshefa.net or at the SHEFA office in Oleai. Office hours is from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

SHEFA has been advancing educational opportunities and providing financial assistance to qualified residents of Saipan. For the fall 2019 term, of the 1,170 applicants, SHEFA has approved 869 applications, 396 of which are new, with 95 returning.

For more information, call SHEFA at (670) 233-5995/235-1020/21, fax (670) 233-5996, or visit www.saipanshefa.net or SHEFA's Facebook page, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA). *(Iva Maurin)*



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Ada: PSS double sessions must end by January

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A member of the CNMI Board of Education is pushing to get schools that are currently hold-

ing double sessions to have full sessions by January 2020.

After getting an update from Public School System officials about schools that currently have double sessions,

BOE member MaryLou Ada asked if PSS can start having full-day sessions at the beginning of 2020.

Charlie Kenty, PSS associate commissioner for Admin-

istrative Services, clarified that that is PSS' goal—to get the schools out of double sessions by January 2020—but he said there are factors beyond PSS' control to get these

deadlines complete.

Jackie Quitugua, who is the interim Education commissioner, assured that schools are currently undergoing repairs and inspections to make sure PSS is following safety requirements. She clarified that these inspections must be completed before PSS can lift the double sessions.

Kenty later told *Saipan Tribune* that repairs at San Vicente Elementary School are done, and are undergoing inspections and that full-day sessions may return by January. "We will work very hard to get everything in place and open the schools next year on regular sessions," Kenty said.

Kenty gave the brief a brief overview on the repairs ongoing at Kagman Elementary

School and Dandan Middle School. The KagES contractor, Kimco Enterprises, was given 90 days to complete the repairs on the school's electrical issues. Meanwhile, DMS' electrical issues should be repaired by this week. Kenty clarified that these dates are tentative and subject to change, and that PSS hopes the projects will be completed earlier than or by January.

The schools experiencing double sessions are Oleai Elementary School, William S. Reyes School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School due to the severe damage they sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu that wreaked havoc on Saipan and Tinian last October 2018.

BOARDWALK

From Page 1

Boardwalk Project, which involves installing a parking lot and a boardwalk into the beach.

Jeffrey's Beach is becoming a very popular tourist site and that has led to trucks and cars that drive to the beach all day and every day, causing sedimentation.

"We have a big problem with people driving on the beach at Jeffrey's Beach. It is an important habitat for threatened species that are indigenous to the Northern Mariana Islands," said DCRM communications specialist Malory Muña.

"Because Jeffrey's Beach has one of the largest streams in the CNMI, we are working on creating a boardwalk to stop people from driving into it," Muña added.

Jeffrey's Beach is one of the 18 beaches along the coastline of Saipan that was recently assessed for BECQ-DCRM by Sea Engineering, Inc. on their vulnerability to coastal erosion. The project was part of the Saipan Shoreline Access and Shoreline Enhancement Assessment in 2018.

Identified issues included limited access to the beach, lack of amenities, and the extensive amount of marine debris along the shoreline.

The assessment also reports that parking and walking along Route 36, the only access to Jeffrey's Beach, is dangerous, and there are also concerns regarding water quality in the Talofoto Stream drainage.



Access to Jeffrey's Beach in Talafofo is about to get better with the planned Jeffrey's Beach Boardwalk Project.

L. MAURIN

"The road is bad, but the tourists don't care. Right now, there's a road that goes in, and there's like a parking area, but it's not," Muna said.

"The problem that we are seeing is people don't just stop there. They want to drive onto the beach for some reason, which harms the entire

ecosystem, and it makes it so that the stream cannot flow out into the ocean. There's water quality issues there too," Muña added.

The Jeffrey's Beach Project is going to install a parking lot and a walking-only boardwalk into the beach itself. The boardwalk is intended to

prohibit vehicular traffic, to allow vegetation to recover, and to stabilize the degraded road, which would reduce sediment run-off.

A Nature Walk will also be created, with information about the ecosystem and the different species that live in Jeffrey's Beach, among others.

BODY

From Page 1

the police's 24-hour report.

The body was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center morgue.

Investigation is ongoing. No one has been recently reported as missing on Saipan.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services

spokesman Derek Gersonde said the body was found in a cove of Bird Island and not right on the beach.

He said it was DPS that first received the call about the discovery of the body.

When DFEMS received the call from DPS at 2:49pm, about 10 DFEMS personnel from Rescue Unit 1 from Su-supe, Medics 2 in Garapan, and Forestry 5 in Kagman

immediately responded to the scene, Gersonde said.

When they arrived at the scene at about 3pm, crime scene technicians from DPS and other police officers were already there.

He said he had no information whether the victim is male or female. A source said the victim is male.

Gersonde said all they did was help DPS officers in re-

trieving the body, which was placed in a body bag.

He said it took him and other DFEMS personnel only five minutes to hike down to the area where the body was located.

Gersonde said it was high tide so not everyone went down.

Last Jan. 1, Akiyama Eiki, a 22-year-old Japanese national, reportedly drowned at the shore off Bird Island.

IPI

From Page 1

second motion to stay. *Sua sponte* order refers to a judge's action made without a request by any party to the case.

The judge sealed the two exhibits, citing Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Manglona directed the plaintiffs to file their memorandum of law under seal based on that same legal authority, and for the reasons stated in the plaintiffs' motion.

In the Nov. 19 order, Manglona said the first exhibit shall be sealed pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because it is a sealed document from another matter pending in the District Court.

Manglona said the second exhibit shall be sealed pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Court's dockets show that the two exhibits pertain to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's probe against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, IPI, and several others.

The first exhibit is the search and seizure warrant, while the second is the grand jury subpoena.

Manglona, however, unsealed the third exhibit, the FBI's receipt for property, which lists the items that were seized from IPI's accounting office at Marina Heights Building I in Puerto Rico, Saipan.

In the seven workers' motion to file under seal, Halegua and Berline said their memorandum refutes IPI's argument that the criminal investigation in question justifies a stay in their civil case that alleges forced labor and negligence.

Halegua and Berline said the memorandum demonstrates that IPI offered no evidence that the criminal in-

vestigation "arises out of the same occurrence in which the plaintiffs are the victims" as required to grant a stay.

In doing so, the lawyers said, the memorandum describes specific content of the sealed exhibits and quotes directly from one of them.

Halegua and Berline said filing their memorandum under seal is therefore the safest way to prevent any unauthorized disclosure of the contents of the sealed exhibits.

Last Nov. 13, IPI, through counsel Phillip Tydingco, filed the second motion to stay and a memorandum of support of the motion in the seven workers' lawsuit.

The plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Quingchun Xu, and Xiyang Du—are suing IPI, MCC, and MCC's subcontractor, Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC, over the injuries they suffered during accidents at IPI's casino/resort project worksite.

The plaintiffs, who are all Chinese nationals, are suing the defendants for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Re-authorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

In its response to the lawsuit, IPI, through Tydingco, said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

Tydingco said the plaintiffs knowingly and voluntarily worked illegally in the CNMI.

BOE

From Page 1

last Thursday that the Finance Department still owes the system about \$745,000, based on S.L.L. 21-10. This money goes to the repairs and operations of schools all over Saipan, including the Admiral Herbert

G. Hopwood Middle School.

In a separate interview, Finance Secretary David Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* that each school has to submit requests for the funds before it can be remitted.

"...It's not that we don't [transfer the monies] but, in order for me to transfer that, I usually get a letter of request

for the funds," Atalig said.

The \$745,000, according to the secretary, will be divided up among most of the schools on Saipan. Atalig said his office first needs to receive a letter of request stating where the school plans to use the funds before it is released.

"In the last week or two,

there were three requests for three different schools, which we transferred," he said. "It's not money to be used for payroll or any other operations. It is specific in the law that it is for a specific school for a specific maintenance or operational cost for that specific school," he added.

Bank of Guam wins four trophies at International MarCom Awards



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bank of Guam wins two platinum trophies and two gold trophies at the International MarCom Awards.

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has been recognized with four international awards—two platinum and two gold—that honored its marketing and promotional efforts.

This year, Bank of Guam won Platinum for two print media: its 2019 Sustainability Calendar and its 2018 Year in Review. The bank also won gold for its 2018 Economic Forum Promotional Item (Glass Flask) and its 2018 Corporate Gift Item (Bamboo Notebook and Pen), which was wrapped in seed paper.

MarCom Awards is an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by communications, marketing and adver-

tising professionals, and has grown to one of the largest of its kind in the world. Administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, the association oversees awards and recognition programs, provides judges and sets standards in excellence.

Joaquin Cook, the bank's president and chief executive officer, said, "We are proud of the work of our communications team, who continually demonstrate that local talent can successfully produce prize-winning pieces and compete with the best internationally. Our community is an important source of our inspiration, and we happily share this recognition with you." **(PR)**

StayWell open enrollment begins for CNMI government employees

StayWell Insurance Saipan announced yesterday that the annual CNMI Government Employee Personal Plan Open Enrollment has started, beginning Nov. 21, 2019, through Dec. 27, 2019.

The enrollment period is open to all CNMI government employees who wish to apply.

The rates are as follows: Medical only starts at \$82/bi-weekly for a single, \$164/bi-weekly for a couple, and \$260/bi-weekly for a family. Medical and dental are at \$108/bi-weekly for a single, \$216/bi-weekly for a couple, and \$317/bi-weekly for a family.

StayWell's CNMI Government Employee Personal Plan benefit highlights include a first dollar plan, which means members are not required to pay a deductible. Members have access to a large provider network in the CNMI, Guam, Asia, and the U.S. Members

may receive a refund of the prefunded deductible. StayWell members also receive exclusive discounts at a StayWell Perks Partner on Saipan and in Guam. Furthermore, dental plans are available as options.

For presentations, you may email Marie Aldan, Sales & Marketing, at mqaldan@staywellguam.com.

For more information, call (670) 323-4260 or visit the StayWell office at Springs Plaza, Middle Road.

Applications may be completed and submitted at its office Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm.

StayWell Saipan's main office, StayWell Guam, is headquartered in Maite, Guam. The insurance company has branches in Guam, the Philippines, and Saipan. Founded in 1986, StayWell has a 90-strong team. **(PR)**

Winds seen to strengthen

Fresh to strong trade winds are projected to strengthen further today, Tuesday, due to a weather disturbance passing south of Guam.

At the same time, a strengthening ridge of high pressure north of Guam is expected to create an even tighter pressure gradient. This increased force will briefly drive the winds even higher.

A wind advisory is in effect from 6am today to 6pm Wednesday. That means winds of 35 mph are expected. Winds this strong can damage less substantial structures and make driving

difficult, especially for high profile vehicles. Use extra caution.

This will also result in hazardous marine conditions this week.

A gale watch remains in effect from today morning through late Thursday night. Hazardous seas watch remains in effect from Tuesday morning through late Thursday night.

A small craft advisory means that wind speeds of 22 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and

compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, very windy conditions will begin this morning, probably a few hours after sunrise. Winds of 25 to 35 mph will gradually shift from northeast today through east tonight to southeast tomorrow.

Loose outdoor objects could be blown away. Canopies, tarps, and tents could be damaged.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels should avoid sailing or boating in these conditions.

A hazardous seas watch is issued when the risk of hazard-

ous seas of 15 feet or more has significantly increased but the specific timing and/or location is still uncertain. It is intended to provide additional lead time for mariners who may wish to consider altering their plans.

A gale watch is issued when the risk of gale force winds or frequent gusts of 34 to 47 knots has significantly increased but the specific timing and/or location is still uncertain.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. **(Saipan Tribune)**

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Rosario: PSS in good financial health for now

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System was originally supposed to get \$37.8 million for fiscal year 2019 under the budget law. That went down to \$36.3 million because of cuts made by the central government as part of austerity measures. But then, PSS actually got a total of \$45 million in actual cash, thanks to supplemental funding from the Legislature, according to Kimo Rosario, acting Finance and Budget

director, in his report to the CNMI Board of Education last Thursday.

Overall, Rosario described the financial health of both PSS and BOE as “good.”

He told the board that, although PSS experienced a cut in its fiscal year 2019 budget from the austerity measures, it was able to bounce back and avoided major deficits, thanks to crucial government allocations.

In his presentation to the board, he reported that the fiscal year 2019 budget for PSS

was \$37.8 million and PSS received supplemental funding of \$7.2 million, and both added to be the overall total of \$45 million.

“With the inclusion of all funding [and the actual cash received], we did not overspend,” Rosario said.

As for expenses, Rosario said that PSS spent \$44.69 million, with \$39.33 million going to personnel, \$4.59 million spent on operations, and \$764,207 on utilities.

Rosario said if PSS went with the revised funding of

\$37.8 million, they would have overspent had they not been given the supplemental funding.

Rosario also notified the board that, as of last Sept. 15, the CNMI government owed PSS \$5.4 million, but that went up to \$7.7 million on Sept. 29, 2019, near the end of the fiscal year. In order to resolve this dispute, the CNMI government agreed to offset the amount by absorbing certain expenses like withholding taxes, Group Health & Life Insurance payments, payrolls, local obligations, and open encumbrances. Also, the CNMI government gave PSS a total of \$8 million past the fiscal year.

“In our meeting with the governor and the lieutenant

governor, we told them that we needed \$8.3 million and that they would pay the remaining \$300,000 in the future. The \$8 million transfer got us out of a \$7.7 million deficit, leaving PSS with \$300,000 left to spend,” Rosario said.

The projected fiscal year 2020 budget for PSS operations is \$37.7 million plus supplemental funding of \$4.4 million, totaling \$42.1 million, plus \$700,000 that PSS expects to receive from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Rosario said that PSS has already submitted its project plan to FEMA and is expecting to get the money once the plan is approved.

Rosario told the board the bare minimum for PSS to ef-

fectively run with ongoing pay cuts is at \$42 million. He indicated that, with consistent fund transfers from the CNMI government, PSS will not have a problem with its expenditures and that PSS has already settled its debts with local vendors as of last Wednesday. “I keep a close check [on the PSS accounts] to see if the CNMI government has transferred appropriations to our account,” Rosario said.

He said PSS is running fine to date and schools should carefully use their funding, but another typhoon scenario like Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018 could be devastating. “Fingers crossed that another typhoon like [Super Typhoon] Yutu does not happen,” Rosario said.



Members of the CNMI Board of Education, alongside Public School System staff get ready for last week's BOE meeting on Capital Hill.

MARC A. VENUS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Come write-in!

The last Saipan write-in for National Novel Writing Month 2019 will be on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, from 10am to 3pm. **(PR)**

Holiday closures at AMP

The American Memorial Park Visitor Center will be closed on the following dates:

- Nov. 26, 2019 (11am – 1pm)
- Nov. 28, 2019, Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 25, 2019, Christmas Day
- Jan. 1, 2020, New Year's Day

The rest of the park will remain open to the public.

With the exception of the holidays, the Visitor Center is open every day from 9am to 4pm.

For more information, contact lead park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or via email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. **(NPS)**

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla from 10am to 2pm and 3pm to 4:30pm on Nov. 27 and 29.

Training will be conducted within a 12-nautical mile radius of Farallon de Medinilla. For the duration of the exercise the general public, fishermen, and marine tour operators are advised to remain clear of these areas and monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 from 7am to 5pm on Nov. 26 and from 7am to noon on Nov. 27.

Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks remain open. For the duration of the exercise, it is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators re-

main clear of the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13°10'N/144° 42'E, 12° 50'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/143° 00'E, 11° 45'N/143° 00'E, and 12° 50'N/144° 30'E.

The Navy will also conduct training at Radio Barrigada from 11am to 5pm on Nov. 27.

The public should be advised that training will be accompanied by the use of blanks and residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The Navy will conduct training at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan from 11am to 11:55pm on Nov. 25-26. **(PR)**

CHamoru commission meeting set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tāno' (*Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam*) will hold its first December monthly meeting on Dec. 5, 2019, Thursday from 12:30pm to 3pm at the Guam Museum conference room, Hāgatña. Call Kumisión secretary Roland Blas for special accommodations and agenda at 480-4047 or email at rolandblas1973@gmail.com. **(PR)**

PH consulate to visit Saipan in Dec.

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the office of Philippine Honorary Consul to the CNMI Glicerio “Eli” Arago, will be conducting a consular outreach mission on Saipan on Dec. 3-5, 8am to 4pm, at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

Applications for ePassports will be processed during the three-day consular mission.

All ePassport applicants should check the list of schedules available on the Philippine Consulate General's Facebook page (facebook.com/PHinAgana/). Biometrics and personal data capturing for ePassport applications will be according to the attended schedule. Those who are on the list of ePassport applicants must show up at the venue on the date and time indicated in the schedule in proper attire (i.e. with collar and sleeves). Personal appearance is required for all ePassport applicants.

For consular services, including passport renewal, that require civil registration documents such as birth certificate and marriage certificate, documents from the Philippine Statistics Authority or from the former National Statistics Office will be accepted.

For confirmation and clarification, call (670) 233-6293 and ask for Mel Santos, or email eppt.pcgagana@gmail.com. **(IBM)**


Wanted: Volunteer kettle ringers

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers as bell ringers from Nov. 29, the day after Thanksgiving, up until Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. The bell ringers would do two-hour shifts each. The Red Kettle campaign is the Salvation Army's fundraiser.

The Salvation Army will also have a delivery of Thanksgiving meals to tent dwellers, low income families, and the homeless on Thanksgiving Day.

It is also calling on the community to support their annual toy drive, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Saipan and Toys for Tots.

To sign up as volunteer or for more information on how your business can participate, contact Pastor Wayne Gillespie at 483-0885 or gaprens@yahoo.com. **(IBM)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-20-004

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set. The \$100 package fee will be waived for firms that had previously registered and paid for a CUC-RFP-19-037 package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Proposal & One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelopes marked “CUC-RFP-20-004, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

The CNMI Board of Education inducted its newest, non-voting student representative, Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres of Kagman High School, during the BOE's monthly meeting last Thursday on

Capital Hill.

BOE vice chair Herman Atalig administered the oath for Torres. She will take the place of the previous BOE student representative, Pionnah Gregorio.

Prediabetes in focus

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With November celebrated as American Diabetes Awareness Month, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. also wants to focus on not just diabetes and its complications but also on prediabetes, when an individual is just starting to show symptoms of developing diabetes.

According to the CNMI Non-Communicable Disease and Risk Factor Hybrid Survey from 2013 to 2015, up to 18% of adults in the CNMI have diabetes, compared to 12% of adults in the U.S. mainland. Many people in the CNMI face serious health burdens as a result of complications due to diabetes, including amputation, infection, kidney disease, and blindness.

Diabetes causes reduced blood flow to the feet, which leads to infections and ulcers forming on a toe, foot, or below the knee leading to an amputation. In addition, diabetes can lead to kidney failure, leading to patients requiring either a kidney transplant or dialysis, and dialysis is not a cure, but a lifelong treatment. Lastly, diabetes increases a person's chances of having heart diseases and strokes as it leads to increased blood pressure and blood sugar levels.

With the CHCC Diabetes Prevention and Control Program aiming to raise awareness about prediabetes, it recommends getting screened if you are of the following:

- Overweight or obese.
- 45 years or older.
- Have a mother, father, sister, or brother with Type 2

diabetes.

■ Not physically active.

■ Are a woman and you had diabetes during pregnancy (gestational diabetes) or gave birth to a baby who weighed more than 9 lbs.

■ Have polycystic ovary syndrome.

■ Are of African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander, or Asian heritage.

Prediabetes is when your blood sugar level is higher than normal, but not high enough yet to be considered Type 2 diabetes (adult-onset diabetes). Prediabetes increases your risk of developing not only Type 2 diabetes, but also increases your risk for heart disease and stroke.

According to the CDC, more than 1 out of 3 Americans have prediabetes, and most of them do not even know they have it.

One of the easiest ways to prevent diabetes is seeing your healthcare provider every year to check your risk for prediabetes through a blood sugar test. Prediabetes and diabetes management outcomes are better and more successful the earlier that high blood sugar is detected.

Many CNMI residents may have had prediabetes for years, but have not had any symptoms. This is detrimental to their health, because the lack of knowledge of having prediabetes can lead to serious, lifelong problems.

CHCC recommends maintaining physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day, five times a week, in addition to eating healthier and replacing sugar-sweetened beverages with water or infused water.

CHCC employees learn about proper pesticide application

As part of efforts to combat any possible dengue fever outbreak in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Bureau of Environmental Health recently took part in pesticide applicator training. In addition, the BEH staff obtained certificates on pest control.

The training was conducted by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Pesticide program, which is responsible for regulating pesticide importation, distribution, sale, use, storage, and disposal in the CNMI. The training included an overview of federal and local regulatory requirements, pest management, chemical formulation and application,

and worker safety.

Completion of the Commercial Regulatory Public Health certification increases CHCC's ability to respond to and prevent vector-borne diseases in the CNMI, including dengue. This will also allow BEH field staff to purchase and apply pesticide products in the event that a dengue or other vector-borne illness is identified.

In related news, CHCC has reported no further cases of dengue fever in the CNMI and continues to monitor the cases being reported in Guam and recommends those who intend to travel to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes in places that have dengue fever outbreaks. (Marc A. Venus)

KHS' Torres is new student rep on BOE

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, she said that the idea of representing over 10,000 students on the board is "nerve-wracking," but she is ready to make her mark on the board and represent the voice of students.

Torres is no stranger to leadership roles as she was elected Student Council treasurer of her school during her freshman and junior years. "I look forward to being the voice of the many students in the CNMI and I hope to see improvements throughout this school year," Torres said. (Marc A. Venus)



Dionne Monique Sakisat Torres, center, is the newly inducted student representative of the CNMI Board of Education. Also in the picture are BOE teacher representative Paul Miura, Torres' family members, BOE chair Janice Tenorio, BOE vice chair Herman Atalig, and BOE member Andrew Orsini.



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 2018 TOYOTA CAMRY LE Blue Crush Metallic, Est. Mileage: 11,795 Stock #U19112R NOW \$21,999*	 2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER Moulin Rouge Mica, Est. Mileage: 22,865, 4-cyl. Stock #U19050R. Was \$24,499 NOW \$23,499*	 2017 TOYOTA RAV 4 Electric Storm Blue, Est. Mileage: 13,820 Stock #U19095R NOW \$23,999*		
 2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER Predawn Gray, Est. Mileage: 34,675 Stock #U19040F NOW \$24,499*	 2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER White, Est. Mileage: 18,083 4-cyl. Stock #U19049R. Was \$24,999 NOW \$24,499*	 2017 TOYOTA SIENNA V6 Super White, Est. Mileage: 19,537 Stock #U19097R NOW \$25,999*		
 2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 HYBRID Black, Est. Mileage: 12,232 Stock #U19113R NOW \$25,999*	 2016 CHEVY EXPRESS 15-passenger van, Olympic White, Mileage: 2,351, V8, Stock #U19060R. Was \$32,999 NOW \$28,888*	 2017 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER V6; Barcelona Red Metallic, Est. Mileage: 18,078, Stock #U19061R NOW \$29,999*		


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Focus turns to individuals with disabilities

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To promote disability awareness and ensure that individuals with disabilities are respected, the VOICES of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter and

Team Koka will be joining in the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Wednesday, Dec. 4, on Saipan.

Hosted by Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the theme this year is "Promoting the participation of persons

with disabilities and their leadership." The International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on Dec. 3 around the globe.

Aside from the IDPD observance, both non-profits have also been working side-by-

side in carrying out fundraising events.

As part of that, VOICES is selling ornaments in honor of those who are actively serving in the military and veterans, and in memory of those who have already passed on, our friends and families. Ornaments are \$5 each and the last day to purchase is on Wednesday, Nov. 27. The ornaments

will be displayed along with the Office of the Mayor's Christmas Tree.

The 5th Annual "Glow Walk, Wheel, or Run" on Dec. 28 will have VOICES and Team Koka recognizing its top five most pledges.

The non-profits also expresses gratitude to all individuals, businesses and agencies who wholeheartedly

supported

Both VOICES and Team Koka work to help individuals with disabilities become independent and respected members of the community. To support them or for questions or suggestions, visit their Facebook page or email: teamkokacnmi@gmail.com or votctinian@gmail.com.

BEH closes 1 establishment in October

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health temporarily closed down the Kagman Market last Oct. 25 due to violations of health and sanitation standards. The establishment re-opened three days later after remedying the identified violations.

The BEH makes sanitary inspections of retail, eating, and drinking establishments each month. It releases the names of the establishments by inspection grade, and the names of the establishments which are ordered closed. If an establishment is shut down, BEH gives it a suspension date and the date they are certified to resume operations.

The Food Safety Rating classifications are based on a score of 0-100. The following are the grades for establishments.

- 90-100: Grade A
- 80-89: Grade B
- 70-79: Grade C
- >69: Closure/Suspension

Grade A: 27 establishments

■ Annie's Ice Cup, San Vicente

■ Made in Saipan Gift Shop, Garapan

■ I Love Saipan Trade Zone, Chalan Laulau

■ USA Mom & Baby Gift Shop, Garapan

■ Saipan Seaside Restaurant, Garapan

■ Touch Down Restaurant, Airport

■ Royal Supplies Wholesale, Koblerville

■ JG Water, Garapan

■ I Love Saipan 105, Garapan

■ Angel Snack Bar, San Jose

■ Suhana Water, Koblerville

■ Stella Catering, Chalan Kanoa

■ Saipan Marianas Noni, Garapan

■ Evergreen Noni, Chalan Laulau

■ Rising Supermarket, Chalan Piao

■ Kanoa Resort, Susupe (inclusive of 11 establishments)

a. Barefoot Bar & Restaurant

b. Seaside Hall

c. Isla Terrace Bar

d. Isla Terrace Restaurant

e. Catering

f. Bakery

g. Nany Lounge

h. Isla Cafe Bar

i. Isla Café

j. Cafeteria

k. Main Kitchen

■ Island Restaurant, Garapan

Grade B: 6 establishments

■ Puerto Rico Bento, Puerto Rico

■ Best Market, Koblerville

■ MJ Catering, Garapan

■ Green Consume Market, As Lito

■ Rainbow Bar, Susupe

■ New Kagman Market, Kagman

No establishments were given a grade C. For more information about the BEH or its establishment inspections, contact the BEH at (670) 664-4870/72/73, or email BEH director John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp.



CASH FOR COLLEGE

More than 200 college-bound students participated in the Northern Marianas College's recent Cash for College workshop on Saipan. NMC staff members and volunteers provided free, one-on-one financial aid assistance to new and current students. Registration for NMC's spring 2020 semester is also currently ongoing. Those interested can contact NMC's Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6770 or by emailing oar@marianas.edu.

NMC



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

Back row, from left, Nolan Flores, treasurer, Political Science Student Association; Desiree Aguon; Teryn Catahay; Glaizy Peregrino; Adrian Davis; Doreen Fernandez; C'Lita Taitano, president, Mañe'lon Marianas; Pedro Blas; Artemia Perez, vice president, UOG Sociology Club; Koby Taimanglo; (front row, from left) Camille Masilungan, president, United Nations Association UOG Chapter; Harmony Palaganas; Vicky Kogol; Natasha Suba, president, PSSA; Muturwan Choay; Sharleen Santos-Bamba, associate dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; Evelyn Chargualaf; Joi Parages; Kingsly Ballon; T'Anah Terlaje, secretary, UOG Sociology Club; Alyssa Gordon, treasurer, UOG Sociology Club; and Heather Garrido, president, UOG Sociology Club and secretary, Mañe'lon Marianas.

UOG hands out meals to the homeless

Students and staff from the University of Guam handed out meals to homeless families on Friday in front of the Guam Congress Building.

The event was a community service project of the College of Liberal Arts and

Social Sciences, assisted by the Political Science Student Association, the UOG Sociology Club, Mañe'lon Marianas, and the UOG student chapter of the United Nations Association.

The team handed out spa-

ghetti meals, toiletries, snack bags, and feminine hygiene products donated by the Bureau of Women's Affairs.

"One lesson we want to impress upon the students is that when they see someone in need, we do something

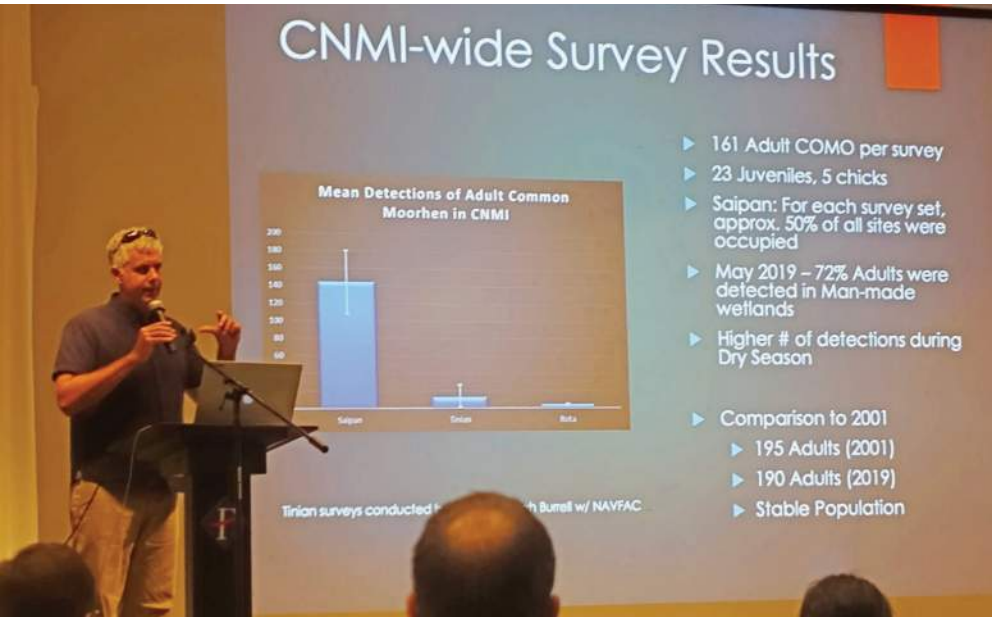
to help. It may not be feeding the homeless, but something toward helping others get back on their feet," said Sharleen Santos-Bamba, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. (PR)



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

C'Lita Taitano, a senior elementary major and president of Mañe'lon Marianas, hands out a spaghetti plate during the Feed the Homeless community service project of the University of Guam's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences on Nov. 22.

Terrestrial Conference



Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Steve Mullen talks about the Mariana common moorhen population census at the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop last week at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

IVA MAURIN



Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny Pangelinan welcomes the scientists who came to present and participate at the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop, which the CNMI hosted for the first time.

IVA MAURIN



Biologists gather at night for the lizard identification activity at the American Memorial Park grounds as part of the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop last week.

IVA MAURIN



Scientists participating in the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop join the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance’s “Bring Back Our Trees” campaign via a tree planting activity at Micro Beach last week.

IVA MAURIN



Poster presentation sessions at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan as part of the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop.

IVA MAURIN



Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality staff talk to the scientists about beach water quality during their tour of the Jeffrey Beach, as part of the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop last week.

OLIVIA TENORIO

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The world refuses to slow its suicidal course toward catastrophic climate change

The United Nations' Environment Program released a rather dire report Wednesday concluding that by 2030, global production of fossil fuels—extracted coal, oil and natural gas—would be more than double what we can safely consume if we hope to limit the most severe impacts from human-caused global warming.

In other words, rather than adopting policies and practices to slow the rise in global temperatures, humanity is essentially continuing on the same suicidal course it's been on for decades. And, of course, Trump administration policies seeking ever more fossil fuel production in the U.S. are exactly opposite of what we need to do.

The Emissions Gap Report is the first U.N. effort to compare projected global emissions with the stated goals of the 2015 Paris agreement, in which world governments acknowledged the looming danger and pledged to take steps to limit emissions of greenhouse gases. The agreement, which aimed to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, was shepherded by the Obama administration; President Trump's decision to withdraw from the pact would leave the U.S., despite its key role in forging the agreement, as a global outlier, the sole country not a party to it.

The new report extrapolates from emissions data from the U.S. and seven other nations that account for 60% of global fossil fuel production. It also builds on an earlier report that projects that even if nations meet their current commitments under the Paris agreement, temperatures would still rise somewhere between 3 and 4 degrees Celsius. Even more troublesome: Global carbon emissions "have remained exactly at the levels projected a decade ago, under the business-as-usual scenarios used in Emissions Gap Reports," wrote Inger Andersen, executive director of the Environment Program.

That spotlights a key hurdle in making meaningful changes in how we create and consume energy. Too many nations pursue too many policies—from pushing increased fossil fuel production to subsidies for coal, oil and gas industries—that work against their promised reductions in emissions.

There is no easy way to fix this, but there are some pretty clear steps that could be taken, including dropping tax breaks and subsidies for the fuels that are imperiling us, thus letting market prices more accurately reflect the true cost; changing the market itself by using government policies, including carbon taxes, to push a rapid global transition to renewable energy; and helping developing nations whose demands for power are growing to build renewable energy infrastructures that do not rely on fossil fuels.

And we must do this with a sense of urgency, and without deluding ourselves about the fate that awaits us if we do not.

(c)2019 Los Angeles Times



‘Sesame Street’ exists because Democrats and Republicans worked together 50 years ago. Hard to imagine now, isn’t it?

The opening days of the House impeachment inquiry deepened the sharp political divisions that make our country more polarized than we once could have imagined. We seem unable to find common ground on even the most fundamental issues of law and evidence. On those same days, I saw commemorations of the 50th anniversary of “Sesame Street” and began to reflect about an unbelievable series of coincidences that led a bipartisan group to make the show possible. I got to see it happen from a front-row seat.

Just before Christmas in 1968, Dean Burch called me after President-elect Richard Nixon asked him to serve as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. I had held that position under President John Kennedy. Although Dean and I were of opposite political parties, we knew, liked and trusted each other, for we had served together on a bipartisan commission on access to television time by presidential candidates. Dean was chairman of the Republican National Committee and presidential campaign manager for Barry Goldwater, his fellow Arizonian. I encouraged him to take the FCC job.

Later, when he started work, he called again for advice. I told him I was with my college classmate Pete Peterson at a board meeting of NET, the predecessor to PBS, where Pete and I met Joan Ganz Cooney. She presented an idea of a television program for children that would be lively and imaginative, with a diverse cast. We had all seen how quickly our children memorized television commercials. On her show, the “commercials” would teach children numbers and letters, concepts like same and different, and demonstrate kindness and friendship.

She told us that she had funding from the Carnegie Foundation to produce the program but lacked funds to distribute it, so the project had stalled. I asked Dean to give her some guidance.

When he heard who had made the presentation, Dean said, “That must be Joanie Ganz. We went to the University of Arizona together, and I asked her to marry me!” He called her and asked how he could help. She told him she needed funding to distribute the program. At that time, there was no public broadcasting network, so films and videotapes had to be produced and distributed to each station. She said she had applied for a grant from what was then the Department of Health, Education and

By NEWTON N. MINOW
Chicago Tribune

Chicago attorney Newton N. Minow was chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1961 to 1963.



Welfare but had been turned down.

Goldwater ran the Senate committee that supervised the department's budget. Dean suggested they ask for his help. When they got there, the senator asked, “Are you from Arizona? Do you know Harry Ganz?” Yes, Harry was her uncle. Goldwater said, “Harry urged me to run for public office and gave me \$50 as my first contribution. How can I help you?” The senator called Caspar Weinberger, then Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and told him about “Sesame Street.” The department provided a grant to distribute the program.

Everyone could see that helping young children get excited about learning was a good idea. Children are not Republicans or Democrats. With the help of a bipartisan effort and a couple of lucky Arizona coincidences, “Sesame Street” helped children learn letters and numbers, kindness, feelings, the ways we are different and the more important ways we are the same. To add to this story of coincidences, Pete Peterson, who heard Joan Cooney's first presentation of “Sesame Street” with me, later married her.

I wish there was a “Sesame Street” for adults. I would love to see political candidates explaining their views to Ernie and Bert, or Big Bird and the Count checking over their economic projections. I'll bet the Two-Headed Monster might even inspire a bipartisan ticket of presidential and vice presidential candidates from different parties and a commitment to an even split of Cabinet appointees. It is the grown-ups who need some lessons in cooperation these days, and that is what “Sesame Street” is all about. After all, Sen. Barry Goldwater was the spiritual father of Big Bird.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Make dental care a health care benefit

Not long ago, my dentist referred me to a specialist for a procedure consult. I was shocked by my out-of-pocket cost—the bill was more than I make in a month. And I'm one of the lucky ones—I have dental insurance and a reliable income.

Low-income patients, or those on a fixed income who require extensive procedures, often find themselves in even more difficult situations.

The issue, sometimes called “dental inequality,” has complex health, economic and social implications. Mary Otto's critically acclaimed 2016 book, “Teeth,” investigated the oral health care crisis that affects millions of Americans; she noted that lack of dental coverage and poor oral health can have far reaching and devastating consequences, including patient death.

Dental care is not a luxury—it is essential for overall health. According to the Mayo Clinic, oral health issues can “contribute to various diseases and conditions,” such as endocarditis, cardiovascular disease, pregnancy and birth complications, and pneumonia. In 2016, the National Association of Dental Plans reported that there were more than 2 million emergency room visits for dental treatment annually.

I was born with congenital heart defects, and for 30 years have been prescribed prophylactic antibiotics to take prior to dental cleanings because of the possible risk of infective endocarditis.

My recent referral was to a periodontist, to treat gum recession with a procedure that involves a gum graft to replace lost tissue. Gum recession, which is found in nearly half the population, is the product of many factors, including genetics, past history of orthodontics and brushing habits.

I still see a cardiologist, and have five cardiac diagnoses listed in my medical chart, so I submitted an inquiry to my health insurance plan coverage for this procedure. I was informed by my health maintenance organization that “the oral surgery benefit under your medical insurance does not cover the services you need. That is always a dental insurance benefit.”

Having already used my dental coverage maximum of \$1,500 or the year, I am fully responsible for the cost of the procedure—estimated at \$3,743.

That medical and dental care are considered separate in the U.S. health care system owes to an event remembered as a “historic rebuff.” Back in 1840, two dentists requested to add dental instruction to the medical course at the University of Maryland. The request was denied, and a separate dentistry field was founded.

This distinction was then cemented in the early 1900s with the development of U.S. medical insurance, which centered on issues of internal health.

Dental care is still not covered by most health insurance plans.

By JESS PERNSTEINER

Tribune News Service

Jess Pernsteiner is office manager of The Progressive. This column was produced for the magazine's Progressive Media Project and distributed by Tribune News Service.



In an article on New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof's blog, Zoe Greenberg argued that this is due largely to the “ignorance and indifference” of lawmakers and private insurance companies.

According to the Physicians for a National Health Program, 70% of seniors lacked dental coverage in 2016, because dental care is not covered by Medicare. The National Association of Dental Plans also reported in 2016 that some 74 million Americans, or about 23% of the population, had no dental coverage—approximately four times the medically uninsured rate.

That is simply unacceptable. As we head into a presidential election year in which health care is emerging as a major issue, we must do all we can to include dental care as a health care benefit, to protect and improve the health and lives of all Americans.

Elizabeth Warren's fail on ‘Medicare for All’

The clear loser of the Democratic primary is “Medicare for All.”

First, it demonstrated the unreliability of Kamala Harris out of the gate, when she endorsed it before quickly backing off. Now, it has blunted the momentum of Elizabeth Warren, made a mockery of her claim to be an uber-wonk and shredded her implicit appeal to Bernie Sanders supporters as an equally committed left-winger without the baggage.

Under pressure for weeks for details related to her version of the proposal, Warren has now backed all the way down to promising to pass Medicare for All by the end of the third year of her presidency.

This is an implicit concession that she won't do it at all. No presidential candidate ever pledges to do something important in Year 3. That's when, if history is any guide, a president has suffered a midterm drubbing and lost all legislative momentum. Warren wants us to believe that this would be the opportune time for her to pass perhaps the most sweepingly intrusive government measure in American history.

Warren's fundamental mistake was to believe, like almost all the Democrats early in the race, that she had to chase Bernie Sanders around the track, which inevitably involved backing his signature health care proposal. But it became immediately evi-

dent that it's one thing to promise to eliminate all private health insurance if you are a self-declared socialist; it's quite another if you imagine yourself anything short of that.

As soon as another erstwhile Bernie band-wagoner, Harris, uttered out loud that she'd end private health insurance, it created a controversy that she was clearly uncomfortable with. As a way to wiggle out of it, she came up with her own plan.

Warren lasted longer. Her undoing was that her resolute unwillingness to say that she'd raise middle-class taxes to pay for the program undermined her self-image as a woman with a “plan for that.” She had to jerry-rig a financing program built on such outlandishly rosy assumptions about costs and revenues that even her journalistic cheerleaders have been skeptical. As she continued to take fire, Warren announced her “transition” plan, effectively saying the program is not a first-term priority.

In so doing, she has managed to bring on herself the worst of both worlds. Democratic purists will be disappointed in her, and Sanders voters feel confirmed in any doubts they already had about her commitment.

It should have been foreseeable that proposing a ruinously expensive, enormously coercive health program would present political problems. Even Democratic primary voters aren't

By RICH LOWRY

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Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



fully sold on a Medicare for All plan that eliminates all private insurance.

Sanders has gotten away with it because socialism is his brand and conviction. He hand-waves away questions on the specifics—what do they matter, when the revolution will make all things possible?

In contrast, Warren let the critics get into her head, just as she did over her purported Native American heritage, and stumbled into a messy, self-destructive response, just as she did with her DNA test last year. Democrats have to be wondering, over and above her struggles with Medicare for All, if this is really who they want to send up against the endlessly combative and needling Donald Trump next year.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Basta! Enough!

It has become clear to me that there are members who do not want me involved in helping the Democratic Party. Where were these people in the previous general election when I was the public relations person, the primary author of the platform, the sign person who designed-got printed- and helped to put up signs, along with the other duties I performed? You people behind the scenes have put me and Nola at odds due to your unprofessionalism and it's easy to see why you guys looked so pitiful in the voting numbers in the last election. I know the truth hurts but I am not spitting on the party. Just telling the truth, which can hurt but real professionals don't let issues get so personal that they become blind and prejudiced.

I know many in the Democratic Party are tied to the NMDs and the only reason Nola is the president is because she is half-local and willing to put money into the party. I have truly admired Nola for the longest time ever since she first burst on the public scene. I have known her since she was a child and her mother is one of my personal friends. It was not fair nor right for you guys who are hating on me to put her on the spot with me by

refusing to even meet with me.

I know that Nola is waiting to meet with Kilili but he can't fix the problem of the Democratic Party being dysfunctional as he can't be the “attack dog” for the party as he has to remain bipartisan to a large degree. Kilili, Nola, nor can I fix the problem as it will take a real team effort with all hands on deck. The Democrats are in no position to be choosy when you can't get anyone elected. The Democrats should be welcoming everyone who wants to help the party. FYI Democrats, I was and have been helping the Democrats ever since I was able to vote over 50 years ago, so those who claim I am not a Democrat need to really apologize for the gesture that I'm not a Democrat. I missed the last election recovering from cancer and I only helped the GOP in the past because there was no, and I will repeat, no, Democrats to even help! Where were these people hating on me for the past two decades as they were not part of the party when I helped in the previous election against Inos? So stop trying to drive a wedge between me and Nola whom I have the utmost respect

for and admiration for what she is doing, especially with the young professionals.






I have been trying to meet with the executive people over the party for months and Nola continues to put me off all because of you! I just wish I knew exactly who these hating people are so that I can aim my concerns directly at them because it is not to Nola and the party's benefit for these people to be dictating hate to Nola, saying I'm spitting on the party when real professionals know I'm just challenging the party and independents to do better for all the people, not me! Nola needs all the help she can get and you guys are sitting back complaining and spitting on me while our governor and his GOP's boat is figuratively sinking, yet we the people don't hear anything from the party. So if you people don't want me talking about the party in public, then meet with me in private because I shouldn't have to beg to help you guys.

Ambrose M Bennett

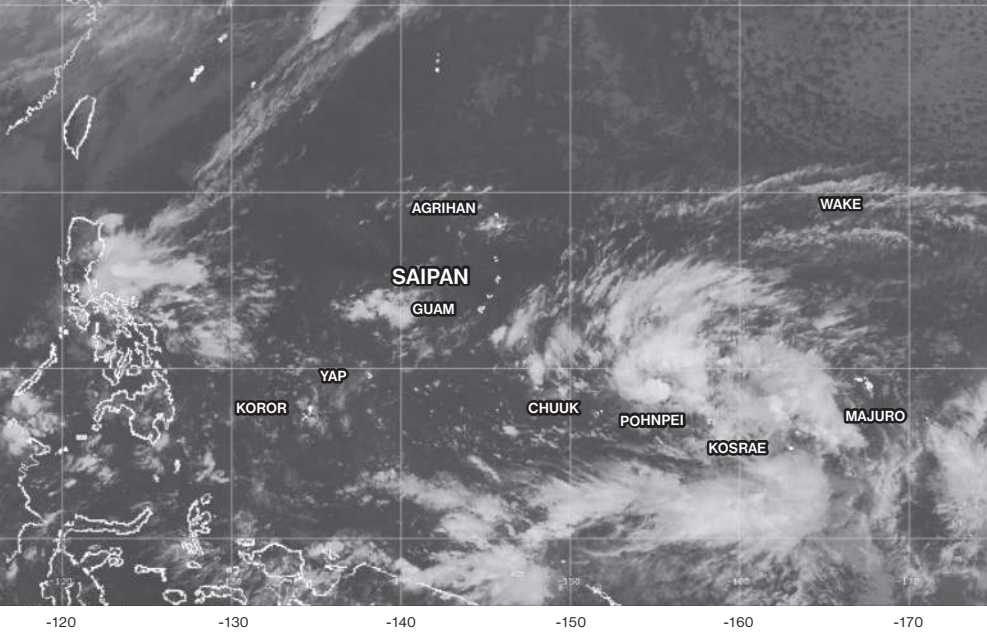
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy and very windy. Scattered showers in the morning, then numerous locally heavy showers in the afternoon.		Cloudy and very windy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:51 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows isolated showers moving through the Marianas waters, mainly Guam and Rota waters. The VAD wind profile indicates east-northeast winds of 20 to 25 knots through the lowest 2 thousand feet of the air. The winds increase to between 22 and 32 knots from there to 13 thousand feet. The buoys reveal combined seas of 9 to 11 feet, composed mainly of northeast trade-wind waves and northeast trade-wind swells.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Sunny	70° / 61°			
Beijing	Sunny	39° / 18°			
Hong Kong	Sunny	79° / 63°			
Honolulu	Windy	86° / 75°			
London	Rain	55° / 48°			
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	69° / 52°			
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°			
Melbourne	Sunny	75° / 50°			
Miami	Mostly Sunny	78° / 72°			
New York	Mostly Sunny	60° / 44°			
Osaka	Rain	57° / 52°			
Paris	Showers	54° / 50°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 45°			
Rome	Mostly Sunny	64° / 50°			
Salem	Sunny	68° / 55°			
San Francisco	Rain	52° / 45°			
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	48° / 30°			
Tokyo	Showers	55° / 48°			
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°			



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT &E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:13 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.40	
7:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.80	
1:24 PM	LOW TIDE	0.80	
6:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.94	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:41 AM	5:30 PM	-
Wednesday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM	-
Thursday	7:40 AM	7:14 PM	-
Friday	8:38 AM	8:09 PM	-
Saturday	9:33 AM	9:04 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:10am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	7:30am	8:10am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:30pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	12:40am	8:07am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	10:40pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/6233	12:30am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ746/623	12:30am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

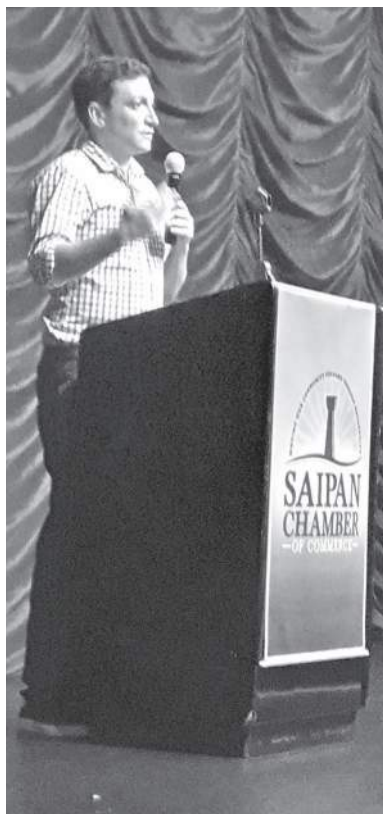
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Alipay to work with Saipan businesses



MARC A. VENUS

Alipay North America representative Michael Block speaks to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during their general membership meeting earlier this month at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alipay Users can hail a taxi, book a hotel, buy movie tickets, pay utility bills, make appointments with doctors, or purchase wealth management products directly from within the app.

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alipay, which is operated by Ant Financial Services Group and is the world's largest payment and lifestyle platform, has been looking into ways to work with numerous businesses on Saipan. Earlier this month, a representative from Alipay North America introduced the opportunities that Alipay can provide to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Alipay North America representatives Michael Block and Sean Chen

visited Saipan last Nov. 6 and presented about Alipay and what it has opened for Saipan businesses that have utilized the payment platform.

In a statement, a company spokesperson said Alipay has become the superhighway between North American businesses and Chinese consumers, providing Chinese travelers the same seamless payment experience that they enjoy at home.

Alipay launched in-store, offline payment services in the United States in 2017. In addition, merchant locations that have utilized Alipay have seen incremental increases to their monthly sales figures from organic growth, further validating that Alipay is the way to the Chinese consumer.

"Saipan is one of the most popular

destinations in the Pacific for Chinese travelers. Around 20,000 Chinese tourists visit Saipan annually. Alipay is available at a large variety of retailers, including luxury, F&B, hotels, tourism, and Duty Free Shops on Saipan, and we are growing our acceptance in Saipan through local partners. We would like to continue to see additional merchants accepting Alipay through our local partners to better connect Chinese tourists with local Saipan merchants," the statement said.

Alipay was launched in 2004, serving over 1.2 billion users with its local e-wallets partners as of June 2019. Over the years, Alipay has evolved from a digital wallet to a lifestyle enabler. Users can hail a

taxi, book a hotel, buy movie tickets, pay utility bills, make appointments with doctors, or purchase wealth management products directly from within the app.

Alipay is expanding to in-store offline payments both inside and outside of China. Alipay's in-store payment service covers over 50 markets across the world, and tax reimbursement via Alipay is supported in 35 markets.

Alipay works with over 250 overseas financial institutions and payment solution providers to enable cross-border payments for Chinese travelling overseas and overseas customers who purchase products from Chinese e-commerce sites. Alipay currently supports 27 currencies.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Harry Morton, son of Hard Rock Cafe co-founder, dies at 38

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Harry Morton, a restaurant mogul who was the son of the Hard Rock Cafe chain co-founder and grandson of the Morton's The Steakhouse founder, has died. He was 38. Pink Taco, a restaurant business Morton founded and previously owned, confirmed his death in a statement Sunday. Specifics about the circumstances surrounding Morton's death were not immediately available. Morton was also an owner of the Viper Room nightclub in West Hollywood and had been romantically linked to several celebrities, including Lindsay Lohan and Demi Moore. "Harry was a visionary and restaurateur ahead of his time, and his contributions, both professionally to our brand and personally to those he worked with, were numerous," Pink Taco said in

its statement. Morton's father, Peter, co-founded the Hard Rock Cafe chain and his grandfather, Arnie, founded Morton's The Steakhouse. Harry Morton served as vice president of development of the Hard Rock chain after working summers at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas, The Los Angeles Times previously reported. The Hard Rock chain did not immediately have a comment on Sunday.

Novartis to buy The Medicines Company for \$9.7B

Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis has reached a deal to buy cholesterol drugmaker The Medicines Co. for \$9.7 billion. Novartis will pay \$85 per share for the New Jersey biotech company, a sharp increase over The Medicine Co.'s Friday closing price of \$68.55 per share. The deal is worth \$9.7 billion, including

outstanding stock options and convertible debt. The Medicines Co. is in late-stage studies of a drug, inclisiran, meant to lower cholesterol. Novartis has a pattern of acquiring other companies in recent years to expand its portfolio of drugs.

"We're hoping to reimagine treatment of the leading global cause of death. This could be a strong step forward in Novartis' transformation into a focused medicines company," Novartis CEO Vas Narasimhan tweeted Sunday. The Medicines Co. focuses on researching treatments for cardiovascular disease, specifically looking at ways to lower so-called bad cholesterol. The deal is expected to close early next year.

UAW regional director charged in corruption probe steps down

DETROIT (AP)—A United Auto Workers union official charged in a

widening federal bribery and embezzlement scandal has resigned. The union said Sunday that Vance Pearson also will retire and resign from his membership in the union. He had been on paid administrative leave. Pearson was the director of a region in Missouri. He was charged by federal prosecutors in September in connection with a scheme to embezzle union money and spend thousands on premium booze, golf clubs, cigars and swanky stays in California. Former UAW President Gary Jones has been implicated in the scheme but has not been charged. Jones resigned last week. The UAW had moved to expel both men from the union. So far, 13 people have been charged in the federal investigation.

Web inventor has an ambitious plan to take back the net

The inventor of the World Wide

Web is releasing an ambitious rule book for online governance—a bill of rights and obligations for the internet. It is designed to counteract the spread of such anti-democratic ills as misinformation, mass surveillance and censorship. Called "Contract for the Web," the charter that Tim Berners-Lee unveiled Monday, represents a year's work by the World Wide Web Foundation where Berners-Lee is a founding director. It seeks commitments from governments and industry to make and keep knowledge freely available—a digital policy agenda true to the design vision of the 30-year-old web. The contract is non-binding, however. Partners in the endeavor include Google and Facebook, whose data-collecting business models and sensation-rewarding algorithms have been blamed for exacerbating online toxicity. (AP)

Nation

Michael Bloomberg launches Democratic presidential bid

NEW YORK (AP)—Billionaire and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, one of the world's richest men, has formally launched a Democratic bid for president.

Ending weeks of speculation, the 77-year-old former Republican announced his candidacy Sunday in a written statement posted on a campaign website describing himself as uniquely positioned to defeat President Donald Trump. He will quickly follow with a massive advertising campaign blanketing airways in key primary states across the U.S.

"I'm running for president to defeat Donald Trump and rebuild America," Bloomberg wrote.

"We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's reckless and unethical actions," he continued. "He represents an existential threat to our country and our values. If he wins another term in office, we may never recover from the damage."

Bloomberg's entrance comes just 10 weeks before primary voting begins, an unorthodox move that reflects anxiety within the Democratic Party about the strength of its current candidates.

As a centrist with deep ties to Wall Street, Bloomberg is expected to struggle among the party's energized progressive base. He became a Democrat only last year. Yet his tremendous resources and moderate profile could be appealing in a primary contest



Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg fills out paperwork, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019, at the state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark., to appear on the ballot in Arkansas' March 3 presidential primary. AP

that has become, above all, a quest to find the person best-positioned to deny Trump a second term next November.

Forbes ranked Bloomberg as the 11th-richest person in the world last year with a net worth of roughly \$50 billion. Trump, by contrast, was ranked 259th with a net worth of just over \$3 billion. His businesses — among them are financial data services and news services in various formats — employ more than

19,000 people in 69 countries. They are also certain to raise ethical questions about how his news-oriented businesses will cover the campaign and financial conflicts of interest for a possible presidency.

Already, Bloomberg has vowed to spend at least \$150 million of his fortune on various pieces of a 2020 campaign, including more than \$100 million for internet ads attacking Trump, between \$15 million and \$20 million on a

voter registration drive largely targeting minority voters, and more than \$30 million on an initial round of television ads.

He did not say how much he would be willing to spend overall on his presidential ambitions, but senior adviser Howard Wolfson did: "Whatever it takes to defeat Donald Trump."

Wolfson also said that Bloomberg would not accept a single political donation for

his campaign or take a salary should he become president.

Even before the announcement was final, Democratic rivals like Bernie Sanders pounced on Bloomberg's plans to rely on his personal fortune.

"We do not believe that billionaires have the right to buy elections," Sanders said as he campaigned in New Hampshire on Sunday. He contin-

ued: "That is why multibillionaires like Mr. Bloomberg are not going to get very far in this election."

Elizabeth Warren, another leading progressive candidate, also slammed Bloomberg on Saturday for trying to buy the presidency.

"I understand that rich people are going to have more shoes than the rest of us, they're going to have more cars than the rest of us, they're going to have more houses," she said after a campaign stop in Manchester, New Hampshire. "But they don't get a bigger share of democracy, especially in a Democratic primary. We need to be doing the face-to-face work that lifts every voice."

Bloomberg does not speak in his announcement video, which casts him as a successful businessman who came from humble roots and ultimately "put his money where his heart is" to effect change on the top policy issues of the day — gun violence, climate change, immigration and equality, among them.

Bloomberg has devoted tens of millions of dollars to pursue his policy priorities in recent years, producing measurable progress in cities and states across America. He has helped shutter 282 coal plants in the United States and organized a coalition of American cities on track to cut 75 million metric tons of carbon emissions by 2025.

Trump denigrates US diplomats, pushes conspiracy theories

WASHINGTON (AP)—Offering his own take on five long days of public hearings, President Donald Trump brushed off the impeachment inquiry as "total nonsense" on Friday and bad-mouthed a number of the U.S. diplomats who testified to Congress about his Ukraine pressure campaign.

In one breath, Trump said House Democrats looked like "fools" during the hearings on Capitol Hill. In another, he offered a window into his political strategy ahead of an expected House vote to impeach him. If that happens, the Senate would hold a trial on whether to oust him from office.

"I think we had a tremendous week with the hoax," Trump said at the White House.

At the same time, he talked up debunked conspiracy theories that Ukraine interfered in

the 2016 election, speaking just one day after a former White House adviser testified that the claim was a "fictional narrative" that played into the hands of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Trump also repeated claims that Obama administration officials spied on his campaign and underscored the need to keep Republicans unified against impeachment.

"I don't think I've ever seen support in the Republican party like we do right now," he said.

In a 57-minute, animated phone interview on "Fox & Friends," Trump said he did not expect to be impeached. But he added that if the House did vote to impeach him, he would welcome a trial in the Republican-led Senate.

"Frankly, I want a trial," he said.

A trial, he said, would give Republicans a chance to question Rep. Adam Schiff, D-

Calif., who led the hearings as chairman of the House intelligence committee. Procedures for a Senate trial still are being worked out, but Republicans may well be hesitant to adopt Trump's idea of turning a lawmaker into a witness.

"I want to see Adam Schiff testify about the whistleblower, who is a fake whistleblower," the president said, adding that he knows the identity of the whistleblower whose formal complaint launched the impeachment inquiry.

Trump's professed confidence came after impeachment witnesses testified under oath that the president withheld aid from Ukraine to press the country to investigate his political rivals. Trump insisted he was trying to root out corruption in the Eastern European nation when he held up nearly \$400 million in military aid to help Ukraine battle Russian aggression.

Condolences pour in after shooting death of Alabama sheriff

HAYNEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Law enforcement agencies in Alabama and beyond posted messages of condolences on social media Sunday in the aftermath of the fatal weekend shooting of a sheriff in the state.

Few details were immediately available about the circumstances surrounding Saturday evening's shooting and the capture of an 18-year-old suspect hours later.

Gov. Kay Ivey tweeted that Lowndes County Sheriff John Williams had been "tragically killed" in the line of duty and that she offered her prayers and sympathy to his family and the county sheriff's department. Williams is the fifth Alabama law enforcement officer to die from gunfire in the line of duty, and the sixth overall, in 2019, according to a statement from state Attorney General Steve Marshall.

The suspect in custody was identified as 18-year-old Wil-

liam Chase Johnson. Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham initially told news outlets that Williams was shot at a gas station.

It was unclear what, if any, role race played in the shooting. The sheriff was African American.

Meanwhile Sunday, amid messages of condolence from law enforcement agencies, members of the public responded with prayers and well wishes for the sheriff's family.

The state had issued an emergency alert late Saturday saying it was seeking an 18-year-old white man last seen around the time of the evening shooting at a QV gas station in the Lowndes County seat of Hayneville, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of the capital city of Montgomery.

Sgt. Steve Jarrett, the commander of state troopers' Montgomery post, later confirmed to reporters that the shooting took place at the QV

station, and that Johnson was the only suspect at the time. An emailed message announcing the alert said the man they were seeking was considered a "serious risk" and possibly was traveling on foot.

Jarrett confirmed to news outlets that Johnson subsequently approached the shooting scene just after midnight and that he had a handgun with him. The state law enforcement agency canceled the emergency alert early Sunday, saying Johnson was taken into custody.

"Details as to how he fled the scene and then reappeared at the scene, all that's going to be investigated," Jarrett said, according to WSFA-TV.

The tall sheriff was known as "Big John." Gov. Ivey paid tribute to him online, writing that in the sheriff's years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps and "his many years working in law enforcement, he dedicated his life to keeping other people safe."

Asia

Pro-democracy camp looks to have won big in HK vote

HONG KONG (AP)—The pro-democracy opposition appears to have swept to a resounding victory in Hong Kong elections, as a record turnout dealt a clear rebuke to city leader Carrie Lam and her handling of violent protests that have divided the Chinese territory.

Some votes were still being counted Monday morning, but Hong Kong media tallied that

the pro-democracy camp had won a commanding majority in the vote for 452 district council seats.

The result could force the central government in Beijing to rethink how to handle the unrest, which is now in its sixth month. The district councils have little power, but the vote became a referendum on public support for the protests.

The pro-democracy camp hailed its strong gains in the normally low-key race as a victory for the Hong Kong people. Winning candidates said Lam must heed the demands of protesters including free elections for the city's leader and legislature, and an independent probe into alleged police brutality.

"We won a small battle today but it shows that Hong

Kong people have a chance to win the war. We will fight on," said Henry Sin Ho-fai, a pro-democracy candidate who won.

A record 71% of the city's 4.1 million registered voters cast ballots Sunday, well exceeding the 47% turnout in the district council elections four years ago. The large number of votes was slowing down the counting.

The largest pro-Beijing political party suffered the biggest setback, with at least 155 of its 182 candidates defeated, according to media tallies.

Among the losing incumbents was controversial pro-Beijing lawmaker Junius Ho, who was stabbed with a knife while campaigning this month.

The winners included former student leaders and a candidate who replaced activist Joshua Wong, the only person barred from running in the election.

Pro-democracy rally organizer Jimmy Sham, who was beaten by hammer-wielding assailants last month, also triumphed, as did a pro-democracy lawmaker who had part of his ear bitten off by an assailant.

The demonstrations have turned increasingly violent. Protesters have smashed storefronts of businesses seen as sympathetic to China, torched toll booths, shut down a major tunnel and engaged in pitched battles with police, countering tear gas volleys and water

cannons with torrents of gasoline bombs.

More than 5,000 people have been arrested in the unrest that contributed to Hong Kong's first recession in a decade.

The vote is the only fully democratic one in Hong Kong. Members of the legislature are chosen partly by popular vote and partly by interest groups representing different sectors of society, and the city's leader is picked by a 1,200-member body that is dominated by supporters of the central government in Beijing.

Dixon Sing, a political science lecturer with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, said the election result was "tantamount to a rejection of the hard-line policy of Beijing and the Hong Kong government."

A win would give the pro-democracy camp 117 seats in the panel that elects the city's leader, bolstering its influence, but Beijing isn't likely to soften its stance or make any concessions to the protesters, he said.



AP

Pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong looks as he accompanies election winner candidate Kelvin Lam to greet people to thank for their support, outside South Horizons Station in Hong Kong, Monday, Nov. 25, 2019.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Duterte fires VP from anti-drug post weeks after offering it

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Sunday removed the vice president from a lead role in his anti-drug crackdown just a few weeks after she accepted the post and vowed to make the campaign that has left thousands of suspects dead less bloody. Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo cited several reasons for Duterte's decision to remove Vice President Leni Robredo from a government anti-drug committee, including what he says was her failure to present any new programs to fight the drug menace more than two weeks after she accepted the post. Presidents and vice presidents are elected separately in the Philippines, resulting in candidates from rival parties like Duterte and Robredo ending up in the country's top leadership and often colliding on policies. Robredo, 58, is a

respected former human rights lawyer and political newcomer, has openly criticized the campaign against illegal drugs that Duterte launched when he took office in mid-2016. Piqued by Robredo's constant criticism of his drug campaign, Duterte formalized an offer last month to appoint her as one of two heads of an inter-agency committee that includes the police and the military and is tasked with overseeing and coordinating the government's efforts to combat illegal drugs.

IS-linked Philippine militant behind suicide attacks killed

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops have killed a "high-value" but little-known Filipino militant who acted as a key link of the Islamic State group to local jihadists and helped set up a series of deadly suicide attacks in the south that have alarmed the region, military officials said Saturday. Talha Jumsah,

who used the nom de guerre Abu Talha, was killed Friday morning in a clash with troops in the jungles off Patikul town in Sulu province, which has been rocked by three deadly suicide bombings this year, including the first suicide attack known to have been staged by a Filipino militant. "One by one, we will hunt you down," Maj. Gen. Corleto Vinluan Jr., the commander of military forces in Sulu, said in a warning to the militants. "I am reiterating my appeal to them to surrender and live a normal life instead of being hunted down as fleeing criminals." Jumsah's body was found by troops Saturday nearly a kilometer (about half a mile) from where troops clashed with his group near the mountain village of Tanum in Patikul, provincial military spokesman Lt. Col. Gerald Monfort said.

Over 1,000 LGBTQ members hold pride parade in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (AP)—More

than 1,000 members of the LGBTQ community and their supporters marched through New Delhi on Sunday to celebrate India's sexual diversity, which they said is progressing but still has a long way to go to become a more accepting place for them. Carrying rainbow flags, balloons and placards and dancing to the beat of drums, they demanded self-identification in any gender for legal recognition rather than first registering as a transgender and then providing proof of surgery to authorities, as suggested by a government bill. They said in a statement that the bill, yet to be approved by India's Parliament, contradicted a landmark judgment by India's top court last year striking down a colonial-era law that made gay sex punishable by up to 10 years in prison. The statement said the bill "directly discriminates against the community and strips them of dignity." They urged lawmakers to make changes to the bill before it becomes law.

Australia investigates China plot to plant spy in Parliament

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Monday that allegations of a Chinese plot to plant an agent into Australia's Parliament are "deeply disturbing and troubling."

The Nine Network on Sunday aired explosive accusations that suspected Chinese operatives had offered Melbourne luxury car dealer Bo "Nick" Zhao 1 million Australian dollars (\$679,000) to run as a candidate for a parliamentary seat in Melbourne.

The 32-year-old was found dead in a Melbourne hotel room in March after reportedly approaching ASIO, Australia's counterespionage agency. Police have been unable to determine how he died.

"The government has never been more determined to keep Australians free and safe from foreign interference," Morrison told reporters. "I would caution anyone leaping to any conclusions about these matters."

ASIO director-general of security Mike Burgess said late Sunday that the allegations are serious.

"Hostile foreign intelligence activity continues to pose a real threat to our nation and its security," he said. "ASIO will continue to confront and counter foreign interference and es-

pionage in Australia."

Parliamentary intelligence committee chief Rep. Andrew Hastie called for an investigation into Zhao's death.

"This isn't just cash in a bag, given for favors. This is a state-sponsored attempt to infiltrate our Parliament using an Australian citizen and basically run them as an agent of foreign influence in our democratic system," he told the Nine Network.

Earlier this month, Hastie said he and fellow Liberal Party member Sen. James Patterson had been barred entry to China for a study trip because of their criticism of the Chinese government.

The latest revelations are set to test already frosty relations between Australia and China.

They come days after a self-confessed spy seeking asylum in Australia reportedly gave ASIO inside intelligence on how Beijing conducts its interference operations abroad and revealed the identities of China's senior military intelligence officers in Hong Kong.

Wang "William" Liqiang provided detailed accusations of China infiltrating and disrupting democratic systems in Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan. He would be the first Chinese intelligence operative to blow his cover.

World

Will Netanyahu's party stick with him? Senior leaders quiet

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looked to project business as usual Sunday as he returned to work following his indictment on corruption charges, but a wall of silence from his usually loyal Cabinet ministers could mean tough times ahead for the embattled Israeli leader.

Netanyahu is determined to fight the charges from the prime minister's office in what promises to be a lengthy court battle. But long before the proceedings begin, it could be his own Likud party that decides his political future as the country appears to be heading toward new elections.

A show of support from his Cabinet would give Netanyahu a boost as he tries to rally the party and public behind him. Netanyahu's efforts so far, however, appear to be falling short.

One top Likud official, Gideon Saar, has already announced his intention to challenge Netanyahu in party primaries.

"There isn't a single person who thinks that after a third or fourth or fifth or sixth election, Netanyahu will succeed in forming a government," Saar told Channel 12 TV on Saturday. "There is only one way that we can save the country, get it out of this crisis and maintain the rule of Likud, if today we go to a snap primary election."

The open call is a risky maneuver in a party that fiercely values loyalty and has had only four leaders in its 70-plus-year history.

Netanyahu's lackeys immediately attacked Saar, with the party saying he has "shown zero loyalty and maximum subversiveness."

But perhaps influenced by polls showing a majority of Israelis thinking Netanyahu



AP
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads the weekly cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

different leader.

Unlike mayors or regular ministers, the prime minister is not explicitly required by Israeli law to resign if indicted and Netanyahu is steadfastly vowing to remain in office.

So the only practical way to unseat him would be if he were ousted from within, a scenario that until recently was unthinkable.

Netanyahu, the longest serving leader in Israeli history, is desperate to remain in office as he faces indictment since it affords him a preferable legal defense. He's angrily lashed out at police and prosecutors, accusing them of staging "an attempted coup," and bemoaning a crooked system that he says is out to get him.

should step down, the party's most senior ministers pointedly remained mum. Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan and Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, among others, are all straddling the sidelines as Netanyahu clings to power.

With just 18 days to go to either form a new government or trigger new elections, pressure will surely be mounting on these and other officials to show their hand.

"Gideon Saar yesterday salvaged the dignity of a party that was once great, stormy, free and democratic," wrote Maariv columnist Ben Caspit. "Nearly all of the top Likud officials agree with Saar. They agree, but tremble in fear. They're he-

roes behind closed doors."

Netanyahu made no mention of his indictment during Sunday's Cabinet meeting, talking about Iran, threats from Gaza and domestic affairs.

Later on Sunday, he traveled to Israel's northern frontier to tour the Golan Heights with military officials. Netanyahu issued fresh warnings to arch-enemy Iran against entrenchment in neighboring Syria.

"We will also act to thwart Iran's attempts to turn Iraq and Yemen into bases for launching rockets and missiles against the state of Israel," Netanyahu said.

The attorney general's decision to indict Netanyahu on fraud, breach of trust and bribery charges Thursday shook up Israel's political system, which

is in paralysis after inconclusive elections in April and September. It is the first time a sitting prime minister has been charged with a crime.

With neither Netanyahu nor his main rival, former military chief Benny Gantz, able to secure a parliamentary majority, the country seems to be barreling toward its third election in under 12 months.

Most observers believe a unity government between their parties, which together control a majority of seats in parliament, is the best way out of the crisis. But the main obstacle to that has been Netanyahu himself. Gantz and his partners have ruled out a power-sharing rotation with an indicted prime minister and urged Likud to choose a

Uruguay's leftist government at risk in election

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)—A 15-year string of center-left governments was on the line Sunday as Uruguay's Broad Front coalition faced a presidential runoff election challenge from a united opposition.

The National Party's Luis Lacalle Pou, who lost the presidential runoff five years ago, held a noticeable though apparently single-digit lead over the Broad Front's Daniel Martínez in polls heading into the vote.

Lacalle Pou, a 46-year-old lawyer and a former senator, is anything but an outsider. His father is former President Luis Alberto Lacalle and his mother was a senator.

He criticized the administration of current President Tabaré Vázquez for a soft economy, reminding voters that the unemployment rate has risen to 9.2% and that more than 50,000 jobs have been lost in recent years. The center-right candidate also hammered at rising crime in the country of 3.4 million people and promised to rein in public spending to curb a rising deficit.

Martínez, a 62-year-old engineer who was recently mayor of Montevideo and previously industry minister, reminded voters of his party's longer record, dating back to 2005. He says that when the Broad Front first came to power, 1 mil-

lion people were living in poverty, almost one-third of the population. That number has plummeted to 8.1%.

Martínez, a member of the Socialist Party, represents the more moderate and center-left wing of the Broad Front, which is a coalition of social democrats, communists, Christian democrats and former guerrilla members.

Martínez is a noted cycling enthusiast while Lacalle Pou favors surfing.

Martínez earned the most votes in October's first round, topping Lacalle Pou 39% to 29%. But the challenger managed to win the support of four parties that were knocked out by that balloting.

Uruguay so far has escaped the turbulent, sometimes partisan protests that have swept Chile, Bolivia and recently Colombia, and Vázquez took note of that as he voted Sunday.

"All Uruguayans have to feel proud of being the people we are, respectful of law, respectful of the constitution, respectful of the opposition," he said.

Martínez also praised the calm. "This was a democratic party, of respect, of tolerance, where we were able to exchange greetings in the street with people who supported the other candidate," he said after the polls closed.

As internet restored, online Iran protest videos show chaos

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Machine gun fire answers rock-throwing protesters. Motorcycle-riding Revolutionary Guard volunteers chase after demonstrators. Plainclothes security forces grab, beat and drag a man off the street to an uncertain fate.

As Iran restores the internet after a weeklong government-imposed shutdown, new videos purport to show the demonstrations over gasoline prices rising and the security-force crackdown that followed.

The videos offer only fragments of encounters, but to some extent they fill in the larger void left by Iran's state-controlled television and radio channels. On their airwaves, hard-line officials allege that foreign conspiracies and exile groups instigated

the unrest. In print, newspapers offered only PR for the government or had merely stenographic reporting at best, the moderate daily Hamshahri said in an analysis Sunday.

They don't acknowledge that the gasoline price hike Nov. 15, supported by its civilian government, came as Iran's 80 million people already have seen their savings dwindle and jobs scarce under crushing U.S. sanctions. President Donald Trump imposed them in the aftermath of unilaterally withdrawing America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Authorities also have yet to give any overall figures for how many people were injured, arrested or killed during the several days of protests that swept across some 100

cities and towns.

Amnesty International said it believes the unrest and the crackdown killed at least 106 people. Iran disputes that figure without offering its own. A U.N. office earlier said it feared the unrest may have killed "a significant number of people."

Starting Nov. 16, Iran shut down the internet across the country, limiting communications with the outside world. That made determining the scale and longevity of the protests incredibly difficult. Some recycled days-old videos and photographs as new, making it even more difficult.

Since Saturday, internet connectivity spiked in the country, allowing people to access foreign websites for the first time. On Sunday, con-

nectivity stood nearly at 100% for landline services, while mobile phone internet service remained scarce, the advocacy group NetBlocks said.

The restoration brought messaging apps back to life for Iranians cut off from loved ones abroad. It also meant that videos again began being shared widely.

Recently released videos span the country. One video from Shiraz, some 680 kilometers (420 miles) south of Tehran, purports to show a crowd of over 100 people scatter as gunfire erupts from a police station in the city. One man bends down to pick up debris as a person off-camera describes demonstrators throwing stones. Another gunshot rings out, followed by a burst of machine gun fire.

Focus

Tougher

US asylum policy

follows in
Europe's
footstep

AP
In this Nov. 10, 2019, photo, migrants gather at the U.S.-Mexico border in Tijuana, Mexico, to hear names called from a waiting list to claim asylum in the U.S. The U.S. has sent a Honduran migrant back to Guatemala in a move that marked a new phase of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown.

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—Nkeze wasn't home when Cameroonian militants came knocking, probably to deliver their signature ultimatum to join their separatist movement or have his writing arm cut off.

The 24-year-old economics student escaped to Douala, the country's largest city, only to learn that the government wanted to arrest him for participating in a university protest. He then flew to Ecuador and traveled through eight countries to the U.S. border with Mexico, including a trek through Panamanian jungle where he saw corpses and refugees crying for shelter, food and water.

In his quest to settle with relatives in Houston, Nkeze now faces a potentially insurmountable obstacle: a new American ban forbids anyone from applying for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border if they traveled through another country to get there.

"When you find yourself on U.S. soil, you are well-protected," Nkeze said, sounding upbeat as he waited in Tijuana for a chance to make his case. "You are protected by human rights." He spoke to The Associated Press on the condition that he be identified only by his last name due to safety concerns.

The U.S. is increasingly aligning itself with wealthy countries in Europe and else-

where to make asylum a more distant prospect.

On Thursday, American authorities sent a Honduran man from El Paso, Texas, to Guatemala. It marked the first time the U.S. government directed an asylum-seeker back to that country under the new policy, which gave him an option to file a claim there. He decided against filing a claim and returned to Honduras, according to Guatemala's foreign ministry.

Asylum was once almost an afterthought, until an unprecedented surge of migrants made the United States the world's top destination in 2017, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency. The U.S. held its leading position last year, followed by Peru, Germany, France and Turkey.

Nearly half of the roughly 1 million cases in backlogged U.S. immigration courts are asylum claims, with most from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Trump has called asylum "a scam" and declared that the country is "full." In nine months, the administration returned more than 55,000 asylum-seekers to Mexico to wait for their cases to wind through U.S. courts. Another asylum ban on anyone who crosses the border illegally from Mexico is temporarily blocked in court.

It's unclear how the ban will be rolled out.

The U.S. Homeland Security Department did not comment on Thursday's initial flight, which got a bare-bones



AP
In this Nov. 12, 2019, photo, volunteers call names of people on a waiting list trying to obtain asylum in the United States along the U.S.-Mexico border in Tijuana, Mexico. The U.S. has sent a Honduran migrant back to Guatemala in a move that marked a new phase of President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown.

announcement from Guatemala's foreign ministry. The U.S. has struck agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras that aim to send back asylum-seekers who pass through their countries, but the Central American nations are woefully unprepared to accept large numbers.

The U.N. Refugee Agency said Tuesday that the ban is at odds with international law and "could result in the transfer of highly vulnerable individuals to countries where they may face life-threatening dangers."

Asylum is designed for people fleeing persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political beliefs or membership in a social group. It isn't intended for people who migrate for economic reasons, but many consider it their best hope of escaping poverty and violence.

country, raising its ceiling to 110,000 during President Barack Obama's last year in office. That practice has been sharply curtailed since Trump took office, with the country planning to resettle no more than 18,000 refugees in 2020.

"There's this race to the bottom around the world, and governments are looking to each other and trying to figure out what's the harshest policy they can get away with," said David FitzGerald, a sociology professor at University of California at San Diego and author of "Refuge Beyond Reach: How Rich Democracies Repel Asylum-seekers."

Cameroonians hoping to follow Nkeze's path face mounting obstacles. Ecuador, the main gateway from Europe, began requiring visas for Cameroonians and 10 other nationalities in August, including six in Africa. Under heavy pressure from Trump, Mexico is bottling up Cameroonians and other U.S.-bound asylum-seekers near its southern border with Guatemala.

Nkeze walked through Panama's remote, mostly roadless Darien Gap in less than four days on his way to the U.S. After giving his tent and raincoat to a woman who was clinging to life, he slept on a stone and prayed for clear skies and morning light. Only about a dozen in his group of 40 men could keep up in a race to a refugee camp on the other side of the jungle.

When his 20-day transit permit in Mexico expired,

Nkeze helped a friend at a Tijuana juice factory for a cut of his earnings and lived at a no-frills hotel in the city's red-light district.

Even before the ban, asylum was difficult to get in the U.S. Judges granted only 21% of cases, or 13,248 out of 62,382, in the 2018 fiscal year. Nkeze can also ask for two variations of asylum, but they are even harder to obtain, with 3% succeeding under "withholding of removal" law and only 2% under the U.N. Convention Against Torture.

"They essentially want you to bring a note from your torturer before they are willing to let you stay in the U.S.," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, professor of immigration law practice at Cornell University.

Nkeze may have caught a break when a federal judge in San Diego ruled Tuesday that anyone who appeared at a U.S. border crossing before the ban was announced July 16 and waited for their names to be called should be exempt.

He waited for five months in Tijuana for his turn on a list of nearly 9,000 people seeking asylum at a San Diego border crossing.

When his name was finally called Nov. 12, he wore a Mexican flag pin on the chest of his jacket as Mexican authorities escorted him to U.S. border inspectors. He said it was a show of appreciation.

He was immediately taken into immigration custody and is being held in an Arizona detention center.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: Ford updates the best-selling F-150 for 2019 with more choices and tech



TNS
The 2019 Ford F-150.

By EMMA JAYNE WILLIAMS
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

For 2019, the Ford F-150 pickup from America's truck leader has some exciting upgrades and additions.

Tough, smart and capable, the F-150 has class-leading capability, outperforming others whether hauling cargo in the bed or towing a trailer, making the toughest task look easy on the job or on a fun weekend.

With seven trims available, priced from \$28,155 to \$67,135, there is an F-150 for any need.

The F-150 is popular with work fleets and offers options such as Ford Telematic Prep to monitor vehicles with GPS tracing and geofencing on a live map, get live vehicle health alerts, set reminders for service or inspection, monitor fuel usage, and monitor driver behavior to help improve safety. Alternative-fuel engines are also available for fleet use.

My F-150 Lariat Supercrew (\$47,985) had a second-generation 3.5-liter EcoBoost V-6 engine with start/stop technology, more horsepower (375) and best-in-class 470 foot-pounds of torque.

Improvements include Ford-first port fuel and direct injection with two injectors per cylinder to improve power and efficiency, all-new twin turbos for greater on-demand power, and a more-responsive high-end-efficient 10-speed automatic transmission with Tow/Haul, Snow/Wet, Eco Select, and Sport modes.

The advanced 10-speed transmission brings improved performance and enhanced acceleration compared with the six-speed it replaced, as well

as three overdrive gears.

Two-speed automatic four-wheel drive with neutral towing capacity is standard for 4WD F-150s. Shift-on-the-fly allows changing from two-wheel drive to 4WD low or high with the turn of a dial. My Lariat also had automatic 4WD.

Adaptive Cruise Control with Stop-and-Go (\$1,250) maintained a set speed and distance from the vehicle ahead, automatically accelerating and braking, even coming to a complete stop in traffic and resuming when traffic resumed. If stopped for more than three seconds, driver intervention is necessary.

My Lariat had most of the basic features and equipment everyone expects, and added lots of packages and options, starting with a Lariat Series package for \$7,050 with Blind Spot Information System/Cross-Traffic Alert and Trailer Tow Monitoring (for the trailer as well as the vehicle); remote start system with remote tailgate release; reverse sensing system (detects objects while slowly reversing, an audible signal increases in frequency and volume); LED side-mirror spotlights for working after dark; and a 110-volt outlet.

Also included were a universal garage door opener; leather-trimmed bucket seats — heated/ventilated 10-way driver/passenger seats with power lumbar and memory driver's seat; heated steering wheel; LED fog lights; heated second-row seats; power tilt/telescoping steering column with memory; quad beam LED headlights and taillights; rain-sensing wipers, and windshield wiper de-icer.

The included B&O sound system brought a customized audio experience with specifically tailored speaker placement, tuning, and calibration; monitoring background noise; up to 1,000 watts of power and 10 speakers.

A Lariat Sport Appearance package (\$300) added 18-inch, six-spoke machined-aluminum wheels with Magnetic (dark gray) painted pockets, all-season/all-terrain tires, body color grille (Magma Red, deep brownish red with red flecks) with two large bars/four minor bars, black surround and black mesh, body-color bumpers, FX 4WD Off-Road box side decals, bucket seats, chrome single-tip exhaust, and unique interior finish (subtle gray basket-weave design).

Automatic on/off headlights with automatic high beams and daytime running lights worked with the rain-sensing wipers, turning on when the wipers were activated. Two large chrome tow hooks were located near the outer bumper.

The cargo box featured Box Link, a flexible, configurable system to secure accessories such as ramps, storage bins, dividers and much more.

My Lariat had four cleats, locked into place on the bed sides, capable of holding 275 pounds across the box and 600 pounds diagonally.

Standard were four fixed floor tie-downs, a center high-mounted stop light with integrated cargo lamp, LED lights near the tailgate, power tailgate lock, and a power-sliding tinted rear glass with defroster. A spray-in Toughbed bedliner (\$595) protected the bed from scratches when I hauled a load to the dump.

Power Deployable Running Boards — one of my favorite features (\$995) — extended when a door opened. The twin-panel power moon roof (\$1,495) offered a more-expansive sky view.

A Tailgate Step with Tailgate Lift Assist (F-150 class-exclusive, \$375) extended out from the dropped tailgate; a pushbutton released the apparatus, the step dropped down and a handle pulled out and turned up for grasping — another favorite feature.

An FX4 Off-Road package (\$905) prepared the Lariat with hill-descent control, off-road tuned front shocks, skid plates on the fuel tank, transverse case and front differential, and tray-style floor liners. A 3.31 electronic-locking rear axle was replaced by a 3.55 electronic-locking rear-axle in a Max Trailer Tow Package (\$1,295).

The tow package also brought a 36-gallon fuel tank, auxiliary transmission oil cooler, engine oil cooler, Pro Trailer Backup Assist with Tailgate LED, integrated trailer brake controller, upgraded front stabilizer bar, and upgraded rear bumper.

The 3.5-liter EcoBoost engine is required with this package, along with max springs. A Smart Trailer Tow Connector, Class IV trailer hitch receiver, four-seven-pin wiring harness, and Trailer Sway Control are standard on the Lariat.

Trailer Backup Assist helps guide the trailer by turning a knob in the desired direction to let the truck steer itself. A Smart Trailer Tow Connector, part of the rearview camera, features a black line in the center that turns in the direction of

the steering wheel to help position the hitch to the trailer.

Power-folding, Power Scope telescoping, power dual-glass tow mirrors with heat, turn signal, memory, auto-dimming (driver's side), high-intensity LED security approach lamps, and LED spotlights with black skullcaps added \$250.

A Technology package (\$1,195) included a 360-degree camera with split-view display, Active Park Assist and Lane-Keeping System. Active park helps identify a suitable parking space, then helps steer the truck into the space while the driver controls acceleration and braking.

My Key technology allows programming of the key to limit top speed, remind front seat passengers to fasten seat belts with a chime and by muting the radio, block Sirius XM stations (five-year subscription included) labeled "explicit," and provide an earlier low-fuel warning. Driving/safety features can't be deactivated, and audio volume can be limited to 44 percent. My Key can assist fleet owners as well as parents to promote good driving habits.

My F-150 Lariat had lots of storage space in the front and rear cabin — multiple pockets on all doors, large shallow dash tray, extra-large console bin with removable tray with coin slots, long shallow console side bins, and a narrow console slot for phone, pen, or other small objects.

Power-adjustable pedals with memory were standard (good for short women who drive trucks). The rear 60/40 bench seat cushions folded up against the back of the cab, increasing

the interior cargo area.

Sync3 offered voice-activated communications, entertainment, and information, with an eight-inch screen displaying the most-used features with easy-to-read text and icons. The screen responded quickly to a light tap or swiping/pinching for some features.

A voice-activated touch-screen navigation system with Sirius XM Traffic and Travel Link (\$795) increased the functionality of the Sync system.

Ford Pass Connect supplied Wi-Fi for up to 10 devices at once. Multiple power points included two 110-volt outlets, three 12-volt outlets, and four USB ports.

Safety and security were addressed with Pre-Collision with Automatic Emergency Braking, Advance Trac with Roll Stability Control and yaw control (reduces fishtailing), Curve Control, SecuriCode keyless entry keypad (driver's side), SOS post-crash alert system (flashes turn signals, sounds the horn at four-second intervals, and SecuriLock passive anti-theft system (engine immobilizer).

My F-150 Lariat was EPA rated at 17 mpg city/23 highway/19 combined. I drove around the neighborhood and on a couple of gnarly gravel/dirt mountain roads and averaged 16.3 mpg. The ride was smooth (on the paved roads).

The Lariat was easy to drive, roomy and comfortable, and controls were easy to reach and use.

With \$16,250 total options and \$1,595 destination charges, my capable, versatile, loaded 2019 F-150 Lariat FX4 4WD delivered for \$65,830.

Life & Style

Swift moonwalks past Michael Jackson's record at AMA Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Taylor Swift has moonwalked past Michael Jackson's record at the 2019 American Music Awards, taking home six honors including artist of the year and artist of the decade.

The pop star, who walked into Sunday night's show with 23 AMAs, surpassed the King of Pop's 24 wins at the fan-voted show. She rambled onstage as she won the final award of the night—artist of the year—and repeatedly thanked her fans for always showing up—during both the good and bad times.

"This year has been a lot of good, a lot of really complicated, so on behalf of my family and me, thank you so much for being there and caring," said Swift, who now has 29 AMAs.

It was a family affair at the AMAs: Swift's father and teary-eyed mom sang along as the singer performed a medley of her hit songs—a performance Swift said in a Nov. 15 social media post was put in jeopardy by Scott Borchetta and Scooter Braun, the owners of her

master recordings.

She didn't mention the men during her acceptance speeches at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, but this did thank her new label for allowing her to freely express herself as an artist.

"This album really felt like a new beginning, and I also really love my record label, Universal and Republic. Monte Lipman, Lucian Grainge, thank you for being so generous to me and allowing me to make whatever music I want to make," Swift said after winning favorite pop/rock album for "Lover," her first album not released on Borchetta's Big Machine Label Group. "As a songwriter it's so thrilling to me that I get to keep doing that."

Swift's other wins include favorite female pop/rock artist, favorite adult contemporary artist and favorite music video for "You Need to Calm Down."

Other big winners at the AMAs included Khalid and BTS—neither act attended the show but won three prizes.

Billie Eilish picked up two awards—new artist of the year and favorite alternative artist. She also took the stage—surrounded by fire—to perform her song, "All the Good Girls Go to Hell."

Lizzo, who was nominated for three honors but walked away empty handed, screamed at the top of her lungs while performing the ballad "Jerome," one of several songs from her album that earned her a leading eight Grammy nominations.

Christina Aguilera was a vocal powerhouse when she took the stage alongside A Great Big World and rock

icon Ozzy Osbourne—who has been recovering from a bad fall that took place earlier this year—was a highlight as he performed with Post Malone and Travis Scott.

Shania Twain closed the night with a memorable performance. Other nostalgic performances included Toni Braxton and Green Day.

Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello heated up the

stage as they stood close together while singing "Senorita," staring in each other's eyes as they sang from one microphone at times. They even rubbed noses at the end.

The pair won collaboration of the year for their No. 1 hit song. Other winners included Dan + Shay, Halsey and Lil Nas X. Top nominee Post Malone took home favorite rap/hip-hop album for

"Hollywood's Bleeding" and Carrie Underwood was appropriately teary-eyed as she won favorite country album for "Cry Pretty."

"It's been a wonderful year," Underwood said.

Selena Gomez kicked off the AMAs as Swift and Halsey got out of their seats to cheer their pal on. R&B singer Ciara hosted the show, which aired live on ABC.

In celebration of his new life William Anthony Jones (Bill)

Born on May 4, 1950
Called to eternal life on November 15, 2019

Predeceased by his:

Mother: †Maria Remedio (Bedu) San Nicholas Jones

Parents-in-Law:

†Ernesto S. Miranda Sr.
†Remedios D. Miranda
†Francisco & Rieko Diaz
†Eiichi & Shigeko Hayakawa
†Hisao Amari and (Misao)

Deceased Wives:

†Victorina Diaz Jones
†Barbara Moon-ja (Sandy) Park Jones
†Kaoru Amari Jones
†Hisako Hayakawa Jones

Deceased Brothers:

†Benjamin SN Jones
†Irineo SN Jones

*The love and blessing of his memory
will live in the heart of his:*

Wife: Imelda M. Jones

Brothers and Sisters:

Bonifacio (Bino) SN Jones (Julie Quintanilla) and Children
Rosalinda Jones Ayuyu (†Felix) and Children

Children:

(Imelda Miranda Jones [Mother])
Berlin Remy Miranda Jones
Briston James Jones
(†Hisako [Mother])
Jonathan Jones Takano
(†Kaoru [Mother])
Billy James Jones (Niki) and Daughters (Ariel Rae Kaoru Jones and Amelia Amari Jones)
Brainard James Jones (Christine Victoria Jones) and Daughter (Brooklyn Charlie Jones)
Bradley James Jones
(Winnie [Mother])
Bino James D. Jones
(Cherry Dayao [Mother])
Bridgette Jones
Brandie Jones and Son (Alexander)

Funeral Service:

On November 27th at 9:00am his body will be escorted from Borja Funeral Homes to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Final viewing is scheduled from 9:00am – 11am followed immediately with a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00am.

With sincere appreciation for your support during this difficult time.

Imelda M. Jones, Children and Family

WINNERS' LIST

A list of the winners at the 2019 American Music Awards, held Sunday at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

- Artist of the year: **Taylor Swift**
- New artist of the year: **Billie Eilish**
- Collaboration of the year: **Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello, "Senorita"**
- Favorite pop/rock female artist: **Taylor Swift**
- Favorite pop/rock male artist: **Khalid**
- Favorite pop/rock duo or group: **BTS**
- Favorite pop/rock song: **Halsey, "Without Me"**
- Favorite pop/rock album: **Taylor Swift, "Lover"**
- Favorite rap/hip-hop artist: **Cardi B**
- Favorite rap/hip-hop song: **Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus, "Old Town Road"**
- Favorite rap/hip-hop album: **Post Malone, "Hollywood's Bleeding"**
- Favorite soul/R&B female artist: **Beyoncé**
- Favorite soul/R&B male artist: **Bruno Mars**

- Favorite soul/R&B song: **Khalid, "Talk"**
- Favorite soul/R&B album: **Khalid, "Free Spirit"**
- Favorite country female artist: **Carrie Underwood**
- Favorite country male artist: **Kane Brown**
- Favorite country duo or group: **Dan + Shay**
- Favorite country song: **Dan + Shay, "Speechless"**
- Favorite country album: **Carrie Underwood, "Cry Pretty"**
- Favorite alternative rock artist: **Billie Eilish**
- Favorite adult contemporary artist: **Taylor Swift**
- Favorite Latin artist: **J Balvin**
- Favorite contemporary inspirational artist: **Lauren Daigle**
- Favorite electronic dance music artist: **Marshmello**
- Favorite social artist: **BTS**
- Favorite music video: **Taylor Swift, "You Need to Calm Down"**
- Artist of the decade: **Taylor Swift**
- Tour of the year: **BTS**
- Favorite soundtrack: **"Bohemian Rhapsody"**



Already a star in China, US fame comes to 'Farewell' actress

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Zhao Shuzhen, who has captivated audiences with her performance as the grandmother in "The Farewell," is essentially unknown to most American audiences. Go to her IMDB page and it looks as though writer-director Lulu Wang's real-life family drama is her only credit. But that couldn't be further from the truth. In her native China, the 75-year-old is not only a veteran of stage and screen, she's also a big star.

It was a pivotal role for the film and for Wang personally. "The Farewell" is based on the filmmaker's actual life, in which her family discovers that their beloved grandmother is terminally ill, decides to keep that fact from her and stages a wedding so they have an excuse to gather everyone together to say goodbye. The heart of the film, which is currently available on home video and has awards buzz behind it, is about the relationship between Wang's alter-ego Billi (Awkwafina) and her grandmother Nai Nai.

Shuzhen got her first awards season recognition on Thursday when the Film Independent Spirit Awards nominated her for an acting prize; "The Farewell" was also nominated for best feature.

Word of mouth led Wang to Shuzhen, who had never

acted in an American production before. Diana Lin, who had already been cast to play Billi's mother, recommended her to the director.

"I worked with her before and she was a great person to work with. Zhao is a great friend as well," Lin said. "She was the first person I thought of! I used to call her Cat-y Auntie (like Kitty) because the way she smiles is warm and soft and sweet. Also, when I was a little girl, probably about 14, I watched her theater plays because we were in the same theater company in Harbin City."

Shuzhen fell into acting almost accidentally. At age 16, she accompanied a friend to the Harbin Grand Theater in northeast China and ended up auditioning for the drama school as well.

"I didn't intend on becoming an actress," she said through a translator on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles. "The chief examiner gave me a scenario to play with and I very quickly entered into the mindset of the character and he thought I did a good job. But it's not as though at the time I had a particular passion for acting or interest in the career. It just sort of happened."

Over the next 40 years, she'd appear in over 100 plays with the company. But it wasn't until China Central Television (CCTV) launched in 1978 that she'd even have the opportunity to start acting in front of a camera.

After that, she started making appearances on various television shows and dramas. Then in 1993 everything changed when she was cast as the mother on a popular show set during China's Cultural Revolution.

"People started to recognize me in the street. I became very popular and very famous because the show was a big hit," she said. "That was the first time I'd experienced being mobbed by fans who wanted my autograph or to take pictures."

And she hasn't stopped working since, but that work never took her to Hollywood, nor did she even think about trying to make a go of it on her own. So when she received word that Wang wanted to speak to her about the role, she was a little hesitant at first. In fact, Wang was told that they wouldn't be able to even afford her.

For some rural US TV viewers, local news is anything but

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—When Dianne Johnson channel-surfs for news in her rural western Nebraska home, all she sees are stories about Colorado crime and car crashes from a Denver television station more than 200 miles away.

It's frustrating for the 61-year-old rancher, who wants to know the latest developments in Nebraska politics and sports. When floods devastated huge swaths of Nebraska this year, Johnson struggled to keep tabs on what

'Uncut Gems,' 'The Lighthouse' top Spirit Awards nominations

NEW YORK (AP) — Josh and Benny Safdie's Diamond District crime film "Uncut Gems" and Robert Eggers' fever-dream period tale "The Lighthouse" led the 35th annual Film Independent Spirit Awards with five nods each, in nominations announced Thursday in Los Angeles.

The Spirit Awards, which honor films with budgets below \$22.5 million, are the premier ceremony for indie film, held annually in a tent on the beach in Santa Monica, Calif., on the day before the Oscars.

With some of this year's top Academy Awards nominees expected to include bigger budgeted films like "The Irishman" and "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," that left room for movies like Lulu Wang's family drama "The Farewell," Joe

'Frozen 2' heats up box office with \$127M opening weekend

NEW YORK (AP)—Six years after "Frozen" kicked up a pop-culture blizzard, the sequel to Elsa, Anna and Olaf's adventures snowed-in the box office with an estimated \$127 million debut domestically and \$350.2 million worldwide, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The opening for the Walt Disney Co.'s "Frozen 2" buried several records. It's the highest-grossing debut ever for any animated film globally. It marks a new high in the U.S. and Canada for an animated movie released outside of the summer season. And it's the largest opening for any Walt Disney Animation Studios release.

Disney opted for the week

ahead of Thanksgiving to open "Frozen 2," meaning it will get a significant second week bump from kids out of school. The first "Frozen" opened over Thanksgiving, earning \$93 million in five days and \$67 million for the three-day weekend.

The original, though, quickly grew into a sensation, remaining in the top 10 at the box office for 17 weeks and ultimately grossing \$1.27 billion. Propelled in part by the hit song "Let it Go," "Frozen" begat a flurry of merchandizing, untold numbers of Elsa dresses and a Broadway musical. It won two Academy Awards, for best animated feature and original song.

1. "Frozen," \$127 million (\$223.2 million international).	6. "Playing With Fire," \$4.6 million.
2. "Ford v Ferrari," \$16 million (\$14.7 million international).	7. "The Good Liar," \$3.8 million.
3. "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," \$13.5 million.	8. "Charlie's Angels," \$3.2 million (\$4.6 million international).
4. "21 Bridges," \$9.3 million (\$2.7 million international).	9. "Last Christmas," \$3 million (\$6.7 million international).
5. "Midway," \$4.7 million (\$5.4 million international).	10. "Joker," \$2.8 million (\$7.6 million international).

Talbot's anguished gentrification tale "The Last Black Man in San Francisco" and the Shia LaBeouf memory piece "Honey Boy" to rack up multiple nominations.

The nominees for best feature are: Noah Baumbach's divorce drama "Marriage Story," Terrence Malick's World War II epic "A Hidden Life," Chinonye Chukwu's prison drama "Clemency," "The Farewell" and "Uncut Gems."

"Marriage Story" will be given the Spirits' ensemble award, dubbed the Robert Altman Award. The honor means its actors, including stars Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver, weren't eligible for individual nominations.

Baumbach's screenplay was also nominated.

Independent distributor A24 dominated with 18

nominations, including those for "Uncut Gems," "The Lighthouse," "The Farewell" and "The Last Black Man in San Francisco." Those included acting nominations for "Uncut Gems" lead Adam Sandler, Robert Pattinson and Willem Dafoe as early 19th century Maine lighthouse keepers in "The Lighthouse" and Zhao Shuzhen as the grandmother of "The Farewell."

Renee Zellweger, among this year's Oscar favorites for her Judy Garland in "Judy," was nominated for best female lead alongside Karen Allen ("Cowell"), Hong Chau ("Driveways"), Elisabeth Moss ("Her Smell"), Mary Kay Place ("Diane") and Alfre Woodward ("Clemency").

The Spirit Awards will be held Feb. 8 and broadcast on IFC.

number of newspapers, many rural Americans are finding it increasingly difficult to track local elections or government decisions that affect their lives.

"It's your connection to what's going on in your community," said Jim Timm, president and executive director of the Nebraska Broadcasters Association.

Johnson's plight is part of a congressional dispute pitting local broadcasters against satellite television providers, who are frequently the only option for viewers in America's most

remote corners.

Caught in the middle are the nation's "neglected markets"—remote areas that can't get local broadcast signals, forcing viewers to rely on satellite service that shows them news from other states. Two of the 12 "neglected markets" are in Nebraska, in regions with several of the nation's least-populated counties. The others are in rural corners of Kentucky, Texas, Wyoming, Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Maine and Michigan.

K-Pop star Goo Hara found dead at her Seoul home

Trump awards medals to Jon Voight, Alison Krauss and others

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Thursday honored an Oscar-winning actor, a bluegrass-country singer, a conservative think tank and others with two of the most prestigious national awards in the arts and humanities.

It was first time during his nearly three-year-old presidency that Trump has awarded the National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal.

Honorees included Jon Voight, one of the few Hollywood actors who is an outspoken backer of Trump. Voight, one of four win-

ners of the National Medal of Arts, later accompanied Trump to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to pay tribute to the remains of two U.S. service members who were killed in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan this week.

The White House ceremony marked a rare warm moment between artists and Trump. The president has had a chilly relationship with a broad swath of Hollywood and the arts world, which have shunned Trump over his immigration policies, his Supreme Court picks, his administra-

tion's efforts to roll back abortion rights and other issues.

"Each of today's recipients has made an outstanding contribution to American society, culture and life," Trump said. "They exemplify the genius, talent and creativity of our exceptional nation."

Voight, who stars in the Showtime drama "Ray Donovan," won the best actor Oscar for his portrayal of a troubled Vietnam War veteran in the 1978 film "Coming Home" and starred in the 1969 Oscar-winning best picture "Midnight Cowboy."

Ang Lee says China boycott of Taiwan awards show a loss

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwanese filmmaker Ang Lee says China's boycott of Taiwan's Golden Horse film awards demonstrates how politics can take its toll on the arts.

Beijing's order to give Saturday night's awards show the cold shoulder was part of its campaign to ratchet up economic and political pressure on the island it claims as its own territory.

Speaking to reporters Saturday night, Lee said politics was "an aspect we do not want to see. But we have to face it, because we live in this world."

"Everybody knows it, it is indeed a loss, no matter the red carpet or the films," said Lee, the festival's chair. "But of course, our best films, I personally think that they are not less good than the previous years. We still have very good films this year."

China held its own Golden Rooster film awards Saturday, featuring films approved by



Taiwanese director Ang Lee poses on the red carpet at the 56th Golden Horse Awards in Taipei, Taiwan, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

Communist Party censors.

Even without the ban, Chinese artists might have found it difficult to attend after Beijing issued a ban on solo travel to Taiwan beginning Sept. 1.

Chinese participation came into doubt following last year's ceremony, when documentary director Fu Yue said in her award acceptance speech that she hoped the world would one day recognize Taiwan as an independent country, something only a handful of nations currently do.

Taiwan split from mainland China amid civil war in 1949, but Beijing considers the self-ruled island part of its territory.

Speakers at Saturday's Golden Horse Awards also expressed support for anti-government protesters in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory of Hong Kong.

Entertainment figures in Taiwan and Hong Kong have routinely been blacklisted in China after expressing pro-independence or pro-democracy views.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—K-pop star and TV celebrity Goo Hara was found dead at her home in Seoul on Sunday, police said.

Police said an acquaintance found the 28-year-old dead at her home in southern Seoul and reported it to authorities.

The cause of death wasn't immediately known. Police refused to provide further details.

Goo made her debut in 2008 as a member of the girl group Kara, which had big followings in South Korea, Japan and other Asian countries. She later worked as a solo artist and appeared on many TV shows.

In May, Goo was reportedly found unconscious at her home and was hospitalized.

She was embroiled last year in public disputes with an ex-boyfriend who claimed to be assaulted by her. Goo accused the man of having threatened to circulate a sex video of her. The case made her the subject of tabloid fodder and malicious online messages.

In October, another K-pop

Marvel 'Voices' podcast inspires comic book anthology

NEW YORK (AP)—A Marvel podcast series is inspiring an anthology of new adventures for some of its most popular superheroes.

Actor and rapper Method Man and author Roxane Gay are among the writers being given the power to play around with characters like

James Taylor audio memoir coming early next year

NEW YORK (AP)—James Taylor isn't working on a typical rock star memoir.

The singer-songwriter has a deal with producer-distributor Audible for the audio-only "Break Shot," focusing on his early years and ending on "the



In this Tuesday, July 10, 2012 file photo, South Korea's pop girl group KARA's Goo Hara attends a press conference in Singapore.

star and actress, Sulli, was found dead at her home near Seoul. The 25-year-old was known for her feminist voice and outspokenness that was rare among female enter-

tainers in deeply conservative South Korea. Before her death, she appeared in a TV show and spoke out against online backlash she received over her lifestyle.

Black Panther and Wolverine.

The comic book giant on Tuesday announced plans for a collection of one-off stories.

Gay, author of "Bad Feminist," will pen a story about She-Hulk. No other details have been released.

"Marvel's Voices #1" is an extension of the Mar-

vel's Voices podcast, which launched last year.

The podcast features interviews with Marvel editors, writers and actors with an emphasis on diversity in storytelling.

The anthology is expected to hit comic book stores in February.

crisp" of his 1970s fame. Scheduled for early 2020, the book features an interview with journalist Bill Flanagan and highlights from his music. Taylor's hits include "Fire and Rain," "You've Got a Friend" and "Handy Man."

In a statement Thursday,

Taylor said the book would cover his "beginnings," the "on-ramp to the road" he still travels on. Taylor grew up in Massachusetts and North Carolina and by the late 1960s had attracted enough admirers to sign with the Beatles' Apple label.

Mom weighs when to tell her son how he came to be

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I very much wanted a child and used an egg donor to become parents. We are eternally grateful to the semi-anonymous donor (we have limited information on her) and love our 11-year-old son more than anything. We have told him that I needed help (for example, lots of shots) to become pregnant, but have not given him more information than that.

Now, I'm wrestling with how much to tell him and when. Part of me says he's our son—period—and that's all he needs to know. The other part of me says it's not something I'm ashamed of.

Truly I am grateful, yet with today's inexpensive DNA tests, I worry that a stranger will knock on our door one day and want contact with him. He has a family who loves him. What do we do? We are very private people. What's the best way to handle this? I love my son and want to be honest, yet protect him and allow him to focus on his/our family.

MIDWEST MOM

DEAR MOM: Secrets like the one you are tempted to keep have a way of taking on a life of their own. Your son will eventually need to know his biological mother's and maternal grandparents' medical information.

If he has been learning anything about biology in school, he should already be aware that birds, bees and babies come from fertilized eggs. Not knowing his level of emo-

tional maturity, I can't put a number on when he should be told. However, the longer you withhold the information, the greater the chances are that he will feel you weren't truthful with him.

If you want him to focus on "his/your" family, you must level with him, and when you do, let him know how much you wanted him and that you love him with all your heart.

DEAR ABBY: Lately, I have been feeling down with myself. For the last year or two, I have been really insecure about the way I look or act.

I'm overweight, and compared to my grandmother, I look like I'm pregnant. The way I act is strange. I talk to myself when I'm alone. I prefer to keep to myself and don't really have any friends. At school, I eat lunch alone at my own table (literally).

I suffer from depression and anxiety, yet my dad says I'm just overreacting. My sister talks bad about me every day. I used to cut, not because I'm suicidal, but because I wanted to feel something different for once. Dad forced me to stop.

I'm sorry this is all jumbled up. I'm not great at explaining how I feel. How do I fix me?

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

DEAR HIDDEN: If it's any comfort, many people talk to themselves. When I do it and someone catches me, I explain that I'm talking with my "most interesting conversationalist."

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



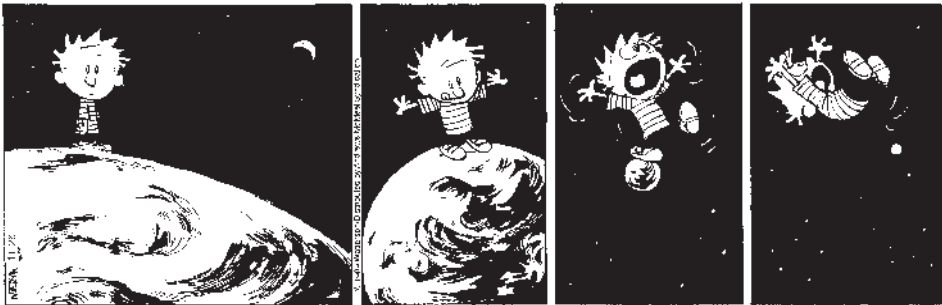
I am, however, concerned that you are socially isolated. This is something you should discuss with your school counselor. There is a national organization called Beyond Differences that is dedicated to ending social isolation among young people. It started a program called "No One Eats Alone." It's their most popular program, and schools in all 50 states participate. It educates students on how to make tangible change in their own schools. The website is beyonddifferences.org, and if your counselor is not aware of it, he or she may find it of interest.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



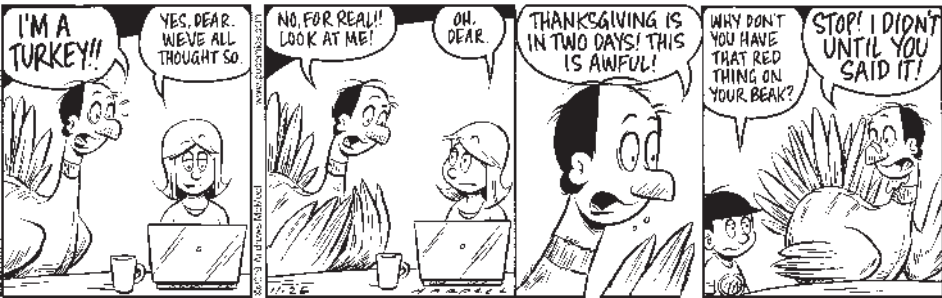
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Like some vaccines

5 Do sum work?

8 Cannes milk

12 Lariat

13 Club —

14 Cold War initials

15 Puccini opera

17 13, in old Rome

18 Gridiron stats

19 Lennon's lady

20 Rene of "Ransom"

21 Young fellow

22 Roofing goo

23 Engine

26 Scroll material

30 Ship's front

31 Gaiety

32 Piece of hardware

33 Random assortment

35 Winter footgear

36 City area, for short

DOWN

1 Paris airport

2 Fork setting

3 LAPD alerts

4 Zodiac feline

5 Revise

6 Show-room sample

7 JFK's predecessor

8 High-end stadium seating area

9 Unre-paired

10 Egyptian deity

11 Half a sextet

16 Frost

20 Knock

21 Like a cheaply made film

22 Sunbather's goal

23 Fuel stat

24 Bruins legend

25 Ode title

26 Boxer

27 Aussie hopper

28 Last (Abbr.)

29 Rds.

31 "Terrif!"

34 Buddy

35 Biting remark

37 Precious stone

38 Family

39 Actor's quest

40 Eve's grandson

41 Sunscreen additive

42 Stadium top

43 Furniture brand

44 "Hey, you!"

46 Trail the pack

47 Klutz

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-26

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Facinelli, 46; Garcelle Beauvais, 53; Tina Turner, 80; Rich Little, 81.

Happy Birthday: Sensitive issues should be dealt with, not brushed aside and allowed to fester. Facing facts and making lifestyle changes that will allow you the freedom to follow a path that will bring out the best in you should be your intent. Concentration, determination and discipline, coupled with innovative ideas and an open mind, will encourage new beginnings. Your numbers are 8, 14, 21, 29, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look for opportunities that can help you find the peace and happiness you deserve. Pick up information, skills and experience that will broaden your qualifications and help you gear your resume to suit your needs. A personal contract looks inviting. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can build something substantial if you join forces with someone who is just as eager as you are to bring about change. Call in experts to negotiate on your behalf. Romance will enhance your personal life and your future. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't get upset over what others do. Know when to walk away, and don't be afraid to do your own thing. Emotions will escalate, and you will need to handle them if you want to excel instead of wasting time over something you cannot change. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It should be clear what's best for you. Don't be afraid to venture down a path on your own. You'll

get more done if you can avoid interference. A personal promise you make someone will change your life. Romance is encouraged. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let the changes other people make disrupt your plans. Anger is a waste of time that should be spent obtaining accomplishments personally or professionally. Expand your awareness; use your skills to help reach your goal. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Positive change is heading your way. The hard work you put in will pay off and encourage new beginnings. The personal gain will be yours once you denounce what and who is no longer in your best interest. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spend more time on self-improvement. Discover what's available and how best to go about getting what you want. Avoid getting trapped in someone's problems or taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Keep the peace; ease your stress. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn all you can, and put the knowledge to good use. How you express your thoughts will determine how much support you receive. Be as detailed as possible, and you'll get the type of action you want. Romance is on the rise. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Share your true feelings, and listen to the response you receive. Compromise will help you get ahead as well as avoid unnecessary clashes. Don't put off what you can do today. Engage in efforts that offer a better quality of life. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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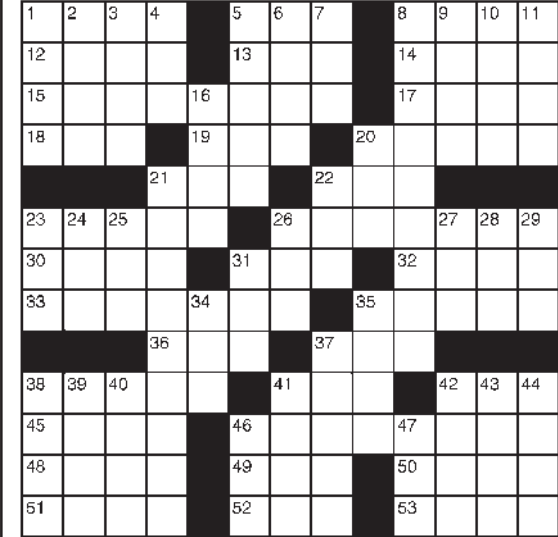
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Accommodate your space to suit your needs. Work on a project that excites you. A personal change should be kept a secret until you have everything in its place and ready to present. Romance will improve your life. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on what you have to accomplish. Refuse to let what others do or say ruin your thought process. Don't trust someone who is using persuasive tactics to manipulate you. Keep your life and your plans affordable and straightforward. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look over your financial, legal or medical records, and adjust anything that may need to be updated. Control your emotions, and refuse to let your beliefs interfere with the way you treat others. Give everyone the same rights you want in return. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring and outgoing. You are original and aggressive.

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STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TAX WRITE-OFFS

Solution: 5 letters

DS INSURANCE FASC
CITCOSTUME VWAGE
THSS LNG I PTAURM
SEACEOR LNLALOA
EGAROT SEAIRAUT
RASDIUNTS DTWNPE
ETSEHTNOME EILSR
TSEDSUITCBAOE E
NOEUONDESTWRASA
IPFCIEIEISEULCML
SNCTNLTPRTFIGHO
LACIDEMEXHIBITS
LONOSUDIDESIGNS
OGANMFFURNITURE
TTENRETNIPRIZES

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Accountant, Charities, Contests, Costume, Debt, Deduction, Design, Dining, Discounts, Exhibits, Expenses, Fees, Fixtures, Fuel, Furniture, Gift, Goods, Group, Guard, Income, Insurance, Interest, Internet, IRS, Loan, Losses, Lowered, Material, Medical, Month, Plans, Postage, Prizes, Real, Rent, Research, Safe, Storage, Tolls, Utilities, Value, Wage, Websites

Yesterday's Answer: Kennedy

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IN THE) Civil Action
MATTER) No. 97-1234B
OF THE)
ESTATE OF:) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
FRANCISCA) **ON AMENDED**
LAIROPI,) **PETITION FOR**
Deceased.) **DECREE OF FINAL**
) **DISTRIBUTION**

Dated this 21st day of November, 2019

/s/
Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge

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49ers crush Packers in NFC elites duel



SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—A strip sack on the opening drive that set up a touchdown got the San Francisco 49ers off to a rousing start to a grueling three-game stretch.

A near flawless performance by Jimmy Garoppolo and a dominant performance by the defense finished off Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers.

Garoppolo threw two long touchdown passes and the San Francisco harassed Rodgers into one of the worst performances of his brilliant career, leading the 49ers to a 37-8 victory over the Packers on Sunday in the first of three straight games against first-place teams.

"Apparently nobody has to play us. We just have to play everybody. We're just the punching bag people come punch on," said cornerback Richard Sherman, clearly piqued by the talk of how difficult San Francisco's upcoming opponents are.

"We don't worry about the outside noise. We understand what kind of team we have and we don't worry about the opponent because you can't control what they do."

Garoppolo connected on a 42-yard touchdown strike to Deebo Samuel in the second quarter and a 61-yarder to George Kittle in the third to start this stretch for San Francisco (10-1) off on a high note.

Following this game against the first-place Packers (8-3), the Niners will travel to Baltimore (8-2) and New Orleans (9-2) the next two weeks in a stretch that will go a long way to determining whether San Francisco will be able to hold off Seattle (9-2) in a tight NFC West race.

"We crave every single game," defensive tackle DeForest Buckner said. "Every week is a new challenge. The good thing about this team is we don't get scared of who our next opponent is or 'Oh this team is supposed to be a top team.' It's just another team. We know how good we are. We just have to show it every chance we get."

Seahawks 17, Eagles 9

In Philadelphia, Rashaad Penny ran for a career-best 129 yards, including a 58-yard touchdown, Russell Wilson threw one TD pass and the Seattle Seahawks beat the Eagles.

Missing their top three wide receivers, leading rusher and two Pro Bowl offensive linemen, the Eagles (5-6) couldn't do much on offense and hurt themselves with three turnovers inside Seattle territory and another near midfield.



The Seahawks (9-2) remain undefeated on the road in six games.

The Eagles didn't have wideouts DeSean Jackson, Alshon Jeffery and Nelson Agholor, running back Jordan Howard and right tackle Lane Johnson from the start.

Saints 34, Panthers 31

In New Orleans, Wil Lutz kicked a 33-yard field goal as time expired, and the Saints took a four-game lead in the NFC South with five games left.

Drew Brees completed 30 of 39 passes for 311 yards and three touchdowns, and led New Orleans from its 14-yard line with 1:51 left to the Carolina 15 with 3 seconds remaining to set up the winning kick. That capped a contest filled with late momentum shifts and critical errors—none bigger than Carolina kicker Joey Slye's missed field goal from 28 yards with 2 minutes left.

Patriots 13, Cowboys 9

In Foxborough, the Patriots held the Cowboys' top-ranked offense without a TD for the first time this season as New England got its 18th straight

regular-season victory at home.

Dallas (6-5) had a chance to take the lead late. But facing fourth-and-11 on its 25 with 1:50 left, Dak Prescott's 20-yard apparent completion to Amari Cooper was nullified after an official review.

The Patriots (10-1), who struggled to move the ball in their win over Philadelphia last week, played without two key receivers after Mohamed Sanu and Phillip Dorsett were ruled out with injuries. Tom Brady made the most of what he had, tossing a first-quarter touchdown pass to rookie N'Keal Harry and completing a 32-yard pass to rookie Jakobi Meyers.

Titans 42, Jaguars 20

In Nashville, the Titans scored four touchdowns over six offensive plays in the third quarter for their second straight victory to keep themselves firmly in the AFC playoff hunt.

Ryan Tannehill ran for two TDs and threw two TDs to improve to 4-1 as Tennessee's starter. Derrick Henry ran for two TDs just 16 seconds apart, and rookie receiver A.J.

Brown capped the scoring spurt with a 65-yard TD catch that made it 35-3 with 6:57 left in the third quarter.

The Titans (6-5) are tied with Indianapolis and Oakland just outside the AFC's final wild-card spot; those are their next two opponents, both on the road.

Jets 34, Raiders 3

In East Rutherford, Sam Darnold threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score for the Jets' first three-game winning streak in over two years.

Brian Poole returned an interception 15 yards for a TD and the rest of the Jets defense made things miserable for Derek Carr, who was pulled by coach Jon Gruden with just under two minutes left in the third quarter.

The Raiders (6-5) came into a rain-soaked MetLife Stadium on a three-game winning streak with an eye on a possible AFC West first-place showdown at Kansas City next week. Instead, they got outplayed by a suddenly resurgent Jets (4-7) team that pulled away in the second half.

San Francisco 49ers quarter-^{AP}back Jimmy Garoppolo (10) passes the ball as he is pressured by Green Bay Packers linebacker Kyle Fackrell (51) during the first half of an NFL game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Buccaneers 35, Falcons 22

In Atlanta, massive defensive lineman Vita Vea turned receiver to haul in his first career touchdown, one of three scoring throws by Jameis Winston. Tampa Bay escaped last place in the NFC South.

Winston shook off two more interceptions to post his sixth straight 300-yard passing game, leading the Buccaneers (4-7) to just their second victory in the last seven games.

Atlanta (3-8) had pulled even with Tampa Bay at the bottom of the division standings with a modest two-game winning streak. But the Falcons couldn't keep the momentum going, dropping to 1-4 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in what has become a lost season for a team that reached the Super Bowl just three years ago.

Bears 19, Giants 14

In Chicago, Khalil Mack set up a touchdown with a strip-sack and Allen Robinson had a season-high 131 yards receiving for the Bears.

Trying to salvage something from a disappointing season, the Bears (5-6) bounced back from a loss to the Los Angeles Rams. The Giants (2-9) dropped their seventh straight and clinched their third losing season in a row.

Mack broke through in the third quarter for just his second sack in seven games. Held without a tackle at Los Angeles, the three-time All-Pro nailed Jones deep in New York territory, and Chicago's Nick Williams recovered at the 3. That led to a 2-yard touchdown run by quarterback Mitchell Trubisky to make it 19-7.

New York cut the lead to five with 4:10 left in the game when Golden Tate hauled in a 23-yard pass on fourth-and-18. The Bears then went three-and-out before Pat O'Donnell pinned the Giants at the 6 with a 61-yard punt, and Chicago hung on.

Redskins 19, Lions 16

In Landover, Quinton Dunbar intercepted Jeff Driskel in the final minute, Dustin Hopkins hit the go-ahead field goal from 39 yards with 16 seconds left as Washington snapped a four-game losing streak.

Rookie quarterback Dwayne Haskins picked up his first NFL win after leading Washington (2-9) into field goal range following Dunbar's interception. Haskins finished 13 of 29 for 156 yards and an interception but made a couple fewer mistakes than Driskel, who was picked off three times as the Lions (3-7-1) lost their fourth in a row.

Bills 20, Broncos 3

In New York, Josh Allen threw two touchdowns passing and Shaq Lawson had two of Buffalo's four sacks. The Bills have their best record through 11 games in 23 years.

Buffalo improved to 8-3, to match its best start since Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly's final season in 1996, while keeping the Bills firmly in position to secure their second playoff berth in three years.

John Brown made a diving 34-yard touchdown catch, and Cole Beasley scored on an 18-yard reception. Allen finished 15 of 25 for 185 yards and threw his first interception in 172 attempts.

Browns 42, Dolphins 24

In Cleveland, Jarvis Landry caught two touchdown passes against his former team and the Browns won their third straight in their first game since losing star defensive end Myles Garrett to a season-ending suspension.

Landry couldn't wait to get back at the Dolphins (2-9), who had him for four seasons before they decided not to give him a long-term contract extension and traded him to Cleveland in 2018. He got his revenge, finishing with 10 catches for 148 yards.

Baker Mayfield had 327 yards passing and hit a TD pass to Odell Beckham Jr., and Joe Schobert had two interceptions as the Browns (5-6) continued their climb back into the AFC playoff hunt.

Steelers 16, Bengals 10

In Cincinnati, Devlin "Duck" Hodges took over for struggling Mason Rudolph and threw a 79-yard touchdown pass, sparking the depleted Steelers and keeping the Bengals the only winless team in the NFL.

Hodges connected with James Washington on the game-turning play in the third quarter, leaving Pittsburgh (6-5) with a quarterback decision as it moves forward without Ben Roethlisberger.

The Steelers defense has steadied them through the transition, and it had a major impact in Pittsburgh's 10th straight win over the hapless Bengals (0-11), who set franchise records for worst start and longest losing streak.

Doncic outduels Harden as Mavs top Rockets



HOUSTON (AP)—Dallas coach Rick Carlisle didn't want his team to get over-excited about its convincing victory over the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

He was, however, quick to note the importance of the victory.

"This is a big win. There's no question about that," Carlisle said. "You come in here, this is a big-time place to play and you're playing against great players. So our guys deserve credit but this is a process and it's day by day and week by week and we've got to continue to go for daily improvement."

Luka Doncic scored 41 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. added a season-high 31 and the Mavericks never trailed in the 137-123 romp.

The Mavericks scored 45 points in the first quarter and were up 78-60 at halftime. Hardaway had 19 in the half, Doncic 17 and Kristaps Porzingis 15.

"That first quarter killed us," Houston's P.J. Tucker said.

James Harden was asked what Houston did wrong defensively.

"Everything," he said. "We allowed them to do whatever they wanted to do from the be-

ginning of the game and when you give a team like that comfort ... they gain confidence. And that's what they did."

The Mavericks has won five straight, scoring at least 137 in the last three. Houston has lost three straight after winning eight in a row.

Dallas knew that the Rockets had a quick turnaround after playing a game in Los Angeles on Friday night and focused on getting off to a good start.

"It was important," Hardaway said. "We wanted to make sure we came out of the gate with some firepower, some energy."

The Mavericks got a dunk from Dwight Powell to push the lead to 11 early in the fourth quarter. Houston used a 6-0 run after that shot to get to 110-105 with 9 minutes to go.

Doncic ended the run with a jump shot, but Russell Westbrook added a basket seconds later to cut it to five again.

Dallas was still up by 5 later in the quarter before scoring the next five points, with a dunk from Hardaway, to make it 119-109 midway through period, and Houston didn't get close again.

James Harden had 32 points



Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic (77) goes up for a shot as Houston Rockets' Clint Capela (15) and Austin Rivers (25) defend during the second half of an NBA game Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Houston.

on Sunday night that he shouldn't be overlooked despite the additions of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George. The fifth-year forward tied a career high with 34 points as the Clippers beat the New Orleans Pelicans for their fifth straight win.

"They are starting to see Montrez is good. He can score a lot of different ways and it seems like each year he is adding more to his game," Rivers said. "He went left a couple times tonight when the scouting report is to not have him go right."

It is the fifth 30-point game of Harrell's career and the second time he has scored 34 this season (the other was Nov. 6 against Milwaukee). He was 13 of 18 from the field and grabbed 12 rebounds as he led the Clippers in scoring for the fourth time this season.

Leonard scored 24 points, Lou Williams added 19 and Paul George had 18 for the Clippers, who have won 11 of 12 at home.

Nuggets 116, Suns 104

In Denver, Paul Millsap scored 23 points and Jamal Murray and Will Barton had 22 apiece in the Nuggets' victory over Phoenix.

Nikola Jokic had just eight points, but grabbed 13 rebounds to help Denver win its fifth in a row.

The Nuggets held Phoenix guard Devin Booker to a season-low 12 points on 5-of-13 shooting. Booker came in averaging 26.2 points in November.

Cheick Diallo led Phoenix with a career-high 22 points. Dario Saric had a career-high 17 rebounds to go with 18 points.

Kings 113, Wizards 106

In Washington, Harrison Barnes matched his season high with 26 points on 7-of-8 shooting. Bojan Bogdanovic had 21 points and Sacramento beat the Wizards.

Buddy Hield added 18 points, including a late 3-pointer that put Sacramento's lead at multiple possessions for good, and Richaun Holmes had 16 points and 10 rebounds. The Kings won for the seventh time in 10 games to improve to 7-8.

Bradley Beal led Washington with 20 points, ending his string of 30 or more at a career-best five games.

NBA, teams discuss shortening regular season

The NBA may be closer to a shorter season, a new postseason format and the in-season tournament Commissioner Adam Silver has long wanted as well.

A person familiar with the negotiations said Saturday the NBA is working with the players' union and its teams on a plan to shorten the regular season, possibly to 78 games. They also are considering a change to the playoff seeding and the addition of a midyear tournament for all 30 clubs in time for the 2021-22 season.

The tournament would likely be a way for teams to mitigate the loss of revenue from the shorter regular season and fewer home dates.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no update on the plan has been publicly given by the league. ESPN first reported the progression of the plan on Saturday.

The proposal could be sent to the league's board of governors in April for discussion and possibly ratification. NBA broadcast partners ESPN and Turner Sports also are involved in the talks.

ESPN also reported the proposal includes a plan to reseed the playoffs after early rounds, potentially

creating an NBA Finals between teams from the same conference.

The notion of adding a midseason tournament has been something Silver has batted around since at least 2016, drawing the parallel to how such events are customary in European soccer.

"It would need to be negotiated with the Players Association," Silver said this year. "I've had very general discussions with (union executive director) Michele Roberts about the notion that these are the kinds of things we're looking at. I think she, of course, is supportive of looking at any ideas we have to build the business over time."

The same applies to having a play-in playoff round, which Silver has said he supports. That idea has even reached the proposal stage, reviewed by the league's competition committee and others. The possibility of changing the playoff seeding has been talked about for some time as well.

But the drawback to any shortening of the schedule—and perhaps fewer home games—is a decrease in revenue, which everyone would want to avoid. That's where the tournament comes into play, especially since it would involve all teams.

for Houston but was just 2 of 15 on 3-pointers in a game where the Rockets made 10 of 44 3-point attempts.

The Mavericks had extended the lead to 16 later in the fourth when Doncic scored six points in a row, capped by a 3-pointer to make it 132-113 with about 3 1/2 minutes to go.

Dallas led by 20 in the third quarter before Houston scored the next seven points, with a 3-pointer from Tucker, to get to 89-76 midway through the period.

The Mavericks were up by 16 later in the third after two free throws by Dorian Finney-Smith before Tucker made consecutive baskets to cut the lead to 103-91.

Harden added two free throws, but Hardaway made a jump shot seconds later to make it 105-93.

Westbrook made a basket to wrap up the third quarter and cut the lead to 10 entering the fourth.

Nets 103, Knicks 101

In New York, Kyrie Irving

will miss at least two more games, sitting out trips to his old homes in Cleveland and Boston.

The way Spencer Dinwiddie is playing, it might not matter to the Brooklyn Nets.

"Just, difference-maker right now," Nets coach Kenny Atkinson said.

Dinwiddie scored 30 points in another strong start in place of the injured point guard and the Nets beat the New York Knicks 103-101 on Sunday for their season-high third straight victory.

Irving continues to rest an injured right shoulder, and Dinwiddie is making sure they get by without him, scoring 20 or more points in a career-best five straight games after stepping into the starting lineup. He was 13 of 14 from the foul line, where the Nets had a whopping 27-9 advantage in makes.

Jarrett Allen had 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, and Taurean Prince added 14

points, 11 rebounds and five assists. Joe Harris scored 13 points, with four coming after the Knicks had cut it to one with 1:20 remaining.

Marcus Morris scored 26 points for the Knicks, who lost their third straight. They played without rookie RJ Barrett. He was scratched after feeling sick before the game.

The Nets are missing their starting backcourt, with Caris LeVert out after right thumb surgery. But they have won four of five to even their record at 8-8.

"We don't have some of our better players on the court but we're still finding a way to win," Allen said.

Clippers 134, Pelicans 109

In Los Angeles, Doc Rivers has seen the Clippers roster undergo many changes over the past 15 months. Montrezl Harrell has remained one of the few constants.

Harrell showed again

Nadal lifts Spain to 6th Davis Cup title

MADRID—Rafael Nadal gave all he had on the Caja Mágica center court in Madrid.

The top-ranked Spanish star even admitted he risked getting injured by playing eight matches—five singles, three doubles—in six days at the Davis Cup Finals, the new World Cup of men's team tennis.

Nadal won all his matches, leading Spain to its sixth Davis Cup title after a 2-0 win over first-time finalist Canada on Sunday.

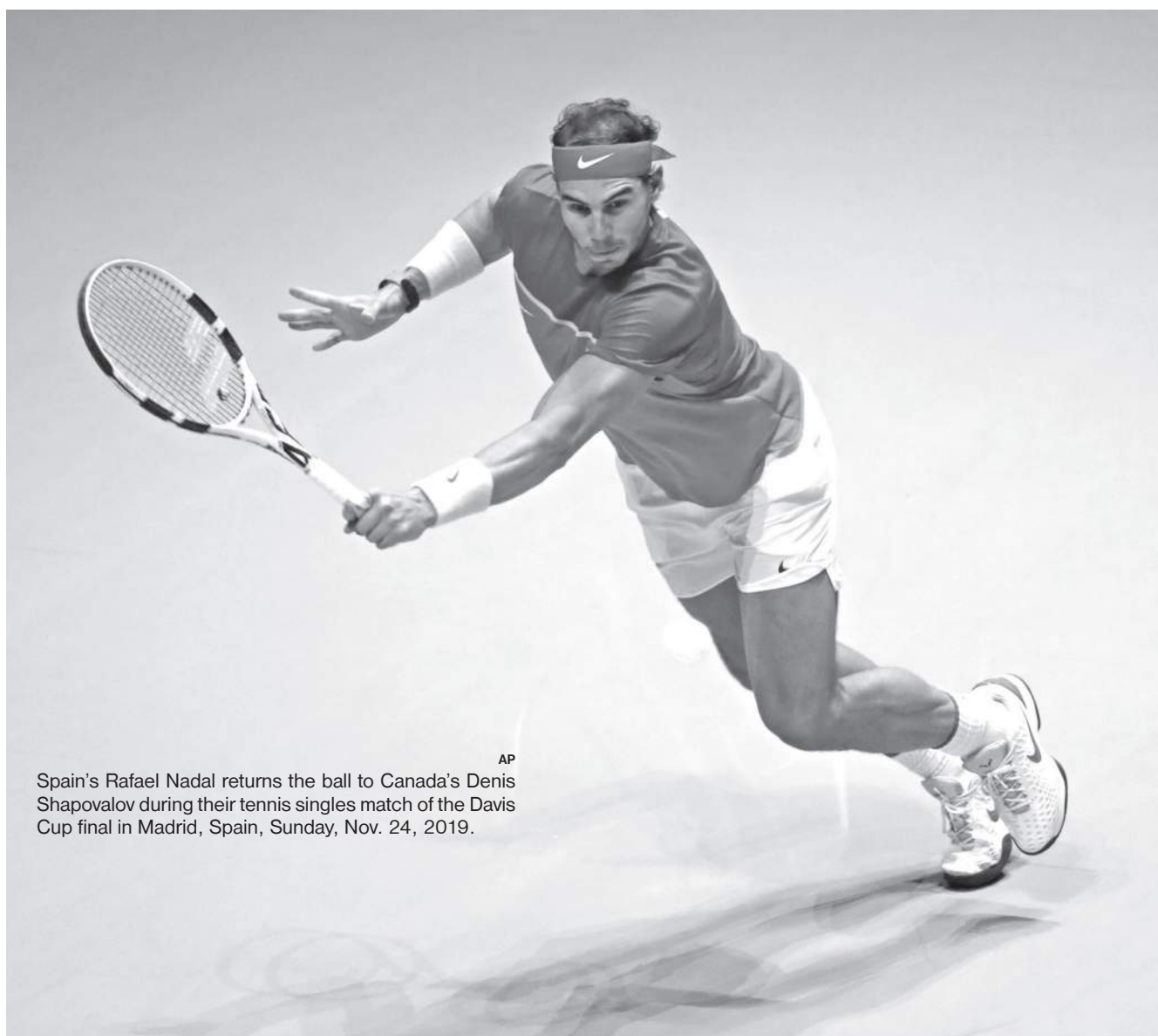
But in Nadal's eyes, the only hero for Spain was grieving teammate Roberto Bautista Agut. He sent Spain on its way to victory by winning the first singles match on Sunday, three days after the death of his father.

"I've won the eight matches but the person who was vital in this Davis Cup was Roberto," Nadal said. "For me, what he did was something almost inhumane. I don't know how to explain it. It will be an example for the rest of my life. He had to leave, then his dad died, then he came back and practiced with us yesterday, and today he was ready again to play at a very high level. It was something incredible."

Before Nadal defeated Denis Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 (7) to clinch the title—Spain's first since also winning at home in 2011—Bautista Agut had given Spain a 1-0 lead by beating Félix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Bautista Agut pointed his finger to the sky after winning the final point in his match, and was in tears while speaking briefly to the crowd, which chanted his name.

"It was an amazing feeling on the court today," said Bautista Agut, who was the Spanish player lifting the cup in the



AP
Spain's Rafael Nadal returns the ball to Canada's Denis Shapovalov during their tennis singles match of the Davis Cup final in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019.

title celebrations.

Bautista Agut's father died on Thursday—a day after his son had defeated Nikola Mektić of Croatia—with his health deteriorating quickly after an illness that stemmed from a 2016 accident.

It was Nadal who had tears in his eyes when Bautista Agut thanked him for his efforts during the tournament.

"You gave us goosebumps all week, especially today," Bautista Agut said. "Thank

you. I'm sure that next year you will do it again."

The 31-year-old Bautista Agut, No. 9 in the world, played as teammates Pablo Carreño Busta and Marcel Granollers nursed injuries entering the final.

"I had the opportunity to play today because all the team and all the players did an unbelievable effort since the first day," Bautista Agut said.

Nadal considered himself lucky to be able to play all matches.

"It's true that I held up, but we know that playing so many matches in this (hard court) surface is risky for me, something can happen at any time," Nadal said. "That's how it's been in the past, but luckily I held up."

Spain's Marcel Granollers and Feliciano López had been scheduled to face Shapovalov

and Vasek Pospisil in the now canceled doubles, although Nadal was likely to play if the title had been at stake. Nadal played in the decisive doubles on Friday and Saturday.

Voted the tournament's best player, Nadal sealed the title with his 29th straight Davis Cup singles win, igniting the home crowd's celebrations.

Tournament organizer and Barcelona soccer star Gerard Piqué, his wife Shakira—who performed in the closing cer-

emony—and Spanish King Felipe VI were among those celebrating Spain's triumph.

Spain's other Davis Cup titles were in 2000, '04, '08, '09 and '11.

Canada was seeking its first Davis Cup title since debuting in the competition in 1913.

"I feel like we've really come really far as a team, as a nation," the 20-year-old Shapovalov said. "Definitely we're super proud. Obviously it sucks, sucks losing in the finals. But I'm super proud of everyone. We've put in 120% every single day. It's amazing how far we've been able to come."

The Canadians eliminated Italy and the United States in the group stage, and Australia and Russia in the knockout rounds.

The 19-year-old Auger-Aliassime lost to Bautista Agut while making his debut in this year's tournament. He was coming off an ankle injury that had seen him sidelined through the group stage and the quarterfinals and semifinals.

Canada came to Madrid without Milos Raonic because of a back injury. Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil were the only players who had competed until Sunday.

Spain beat Russia and Croatia in the group stage, and Argentina and Britain in the knockout rounds.

The new Davis Cup Finals is the result of a 25-year partnership between the International Tennis Federation and the Kosmos group co-founded by Piqué. For the first time, 18 nations played in the same venue in a single week, instead of head-to-head matches that used to take place over four weekends throughout the year.

The tournament returns to Madrid next year.



ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Braves

have filled another hole by agreeing to a \$16 million, two-year contract with catcher Travis d'Arnaud.

The 30-year-old d'Arnaud spent most of last season in Tampa Bay, where he rekindled his career by hitting .263 with 16 homers in 92 games. His deal with the Braves was announced Sunday.

D'Arnaud was cut by the New York Mets after appearing in just four games, and he got only one at-bat with the Los Angeles Dodgers before he was sent to the Rays. He took over the catching job in Tampa Bay and helped the Rays capture an AL wild-card berth.

He gets \$8 million in each of the next two seasons and agreed to donate \$80,000 annually to charity.

D'Arnaud gives the Braves

Busy Braves reach deal with d'Arnaud

a second catcher to pair with Tyler Flowers, who returned to the team on a \$4 million, one-year deal. Atlanta's other catcher, Brian McCann, announced his retirement shortly after the team's loss in the NL Division Series.

The Braves have been one of the busiest teams of the off-season, re-signing four players in addition to landing d'Arnaud and reliever Will Smith.

In Chicago, the Cubs made a minor trade on Saturday, acquiring right-hander Jharel Cotton from the Oakland A's for cash. Oakland designated him for assignment on Wednesday.

Cotton is a reclamation project, as he missed all of 2018 after undergoing Tommy John surgery in spring training. He returned this July, making 18

appearances (three starts) between Single-A and Triple-A for the A's. In 27 2/3 innings, he posted a 7.16 ERA, striking out 33 batters while walking 12.

In his final six outings (one start; all with Triple-A), the 27-year-old posted a 3.24 ERA in 8 1/3 innings, striking out eight compared to four walks.

Cotton has 29 career big league appearances - all starts - 24 of which came in 2017. He relies on five pitches: a low-to-mid-90s four-seamer, an upper-80s slider, an upper-70s changeup, a low-90s sinker and an upper-70s curveball. He throws the former three most often.

The Cubs have made several low-risk, high-reward trades over the past year or so. Last November, they acquired reliever Rowan Wick from the

Padres in a move that generated little headlines. But after working with the Cubs "pitch lab," Wick ascended from an unknown Triple-A pitcher to one of the Cubs' most-trusted relievers by season's end.

Wick's former roommate with the Padres, Brad Wieck, joined the Cubs in a 2019 trade deadline deal that sent Carl Edwards Jr. to San Diego. The focus was all on Edwards initially, but Wieck - like Wick - became a central figure in the Cubs' bullpen down the stretch. He also worked with the pitch lab.

Acquiring Cotton is another low-risk, high-reward move. Not every player the Cubs obtain in low-key deals will be as successful as the Wiecks. But if the move pans out, Cotton will offer the Cubs rota-

tion depth, or possibly bullpen help, both of which they'll need to address this winter.

The Cubs 40-man roster now stands at 37 players.

All-Star Game at Fenway?

Twenty years after hosting the MLB All-Star Game, the Boston Red Sox are looking to bring the midsummer classic back to Fenway Park.

Red Sox president Sam Kennedy said Friday the organization has been in talks with the league about the possibility of Boston hosting the event in the near future.

"We would love to have an All-Star Game," Kennedy said at the groundbreaking ceremony for the MGM Music Hall at Fenway, per Julian McWilliams of The Boston

Globe. "In fact, I talked to some of the folks at MLB last week about the possibility.

"We need to work and figure out a time that would work for the convention centers. But we've told MLB that we would like to host."

The 1999 All-Star Game was an unforgettable one for Red Sox fans as it'll be remembered for Pedro Martinez's sensational performance as the American League's starting pitcher. The legendary right-hander struck out five National League hitters in two innings. You can relive that moment below:

If Boston does indeed host another All-Star Game within the next few years, it'll likely happen between 2022 and 2025. Los Angeles will host the event in 2020, followed by Atlanta in 2021. Earlier this year it was announced Philadelphia will host the 2026 All-Star Game.

Patriot Angels whip Niners in fast-pitch league

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



The Patriot Angels cruised to a 23-4 victory over the Niners, as action in the Natibu Sports Association 2nd Annual All Girls Fast-pitch League continued at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

After being threatened in the second inning of the Nov. 16 match, the Patriot Angels regained control of the duel en route to their second victory in as many games. The Patriot Angels debuted with a 15-14 come-from-behind win over

Balas early this month.

Versus the Niners, runs from Destiny Pangelinan and Sunny Aldan put the Angel Patriots on top after one complete inning. The Niners, after being shut down at the bottom of the first inning, scored four runs at the bottom of the second to grab the lead, 4-2.

However, that was the only time that the Niners enjoyed the upper hand, as the Patriot Angels quickly countered at the top of the third inning, making seven runs to reclaim the lead, 9-4. Sunny Aldan, Kiana Aldan, Casandra Camacho, Christy Aldan, Victoria Pangelinan, Alannah Sablan,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Patriot Angels pitcher, center checks the field before making a throw, while the Niners coach, right, gestures to his players during their game in the Natibu Sports Association 2nd Annual All Girls Fast-pitch League at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

four complete innings, 16-4, the Patriot Angels showed no mercy and for the third straight time fired seven runs to complete the blowout and earn the early win after only five innings.

Sablan finished off the Niners at the bottom of the fifth after teaming up with Destiny Pangelinan for a 1-3 putout play on their opponent's first and third batter. Pangelinan also got the second out for the Patriot Angels after catching a fly from the Niners' second batter.

RACE

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Roy Banados and George Poquiz in the men's 50 and over finals and won, 6-3, 6-3. Lai and Race also prevailed in straight sets over Ronnie Decena and Diony Peralta in their semis match, 6-2, 6-2, while Banados and Poquiz eked out a 6-2, 4-6, 10-4 triumph over Don Lacbayo and Don Quitugua in the other Final Four Game.

Race, along with the other winners of the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic, were recognized at the awards ceremony last Sunday night at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and the many-time CNMI national player and coach was beaming with pride, as the crowd acknowledged his feat.

"It's been a great journey since I started playing tennis when I was 17," said Race, as he made trip down memory lane, recalling his first competition on Saipan and the long list of wins he recorded.

"My first tournament was at the Hyatt, I think back in 1988. I played five matches in one day and won all of them. I was young then and have all the strength to last long games," said the 59-year-old player/coach.

Of the many matches and championships he won, Race picked three that stood out for him. One took place just

last year when he competed in the Hong Kong ITF Seniors National Tournament and ruled the over 55 singles event of the world-ranking tournament.

"I came to the tournament without any expectation. I did even thought I would be wiped out in the opening rounds, but I ended up winning the tournament and getting a world ranking," Race said.

The other two tournaments worth mentioning were the 2006 Micronesian Games on Saipan and a local competition sponsored by DFS Saipan in early 2006.

"I was a match point away from winning a gold medal in the singles in the 1994 Micro Games, but lost it. It took me 12 years to get that gold so that's really big for me," Race said.

As for the DFS-backed competition, Race said the men's singles event had one of the toughest, if not the toughest field, with the likes of Faheem Ibrahim and former Davis Cup player for South Korea and tennis pro DongGon Son entered in the tournament.

"We had a whole bunch of very good players," said Race.

Asked if he still has a dream tournament to add to his long list of achievements, Race said he does not.

"My dream now is for other tennis players to do well and help them realize their dreams."

CHUNG

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livered five goals in TanHoldings' 6-2 win over Kanoa last Nov. 1 and three in their 7-2 victory against MP United for a total of 17 goals.

Before their last two games, Esalan was behind MP United's John Michael Rojas, who had 11, but did not score in his squad's final two matches to drop to second place. Kanoa's Andruw Omelau was the third player to make at least 10 goals this season, breaking into double figures after getting a hat

trick in their last game (9-2 victory over Matansa).

Omelau's teammate, Markus Toves, and MP United's Oliver Lee rounded out the Top 5 after gaining six and five goals, respectively.

The Golden Boot winners in four age groups (including co-ed U12 and girls U16) and other top performers of the Fall season will be recognized by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and league sponsor Triple J Motors in a ceremony with the date of the awards presentation to be announced later.

and Chanel Espinosa reached for the Patriot Angels.

Another seven-run performance at the top of the fourth

inning stretched the Patriot Angels' lead, while the Niners were still quiet. Destiny Pangelinan, Kiana, Christy, Victo-

ria, Sablan, Espinosa, and Toremey Diaz delivered the runs for the Patriot Angels.

Despite the big lead after

Registration on for Turkey Trot



Registration for the 2019 Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run, hosted by the Northern Marianas Athletics in celebration of Thanksgiving Day, has started.

This Thursday's race will have runners covering the 4.2-mile course that will start at Lower Base and end at the highest peak on island. The run will start at 6am, while sign up is scheduled at 5am. Entry fees are \$10 for adult runners and \$5 for participants in the U18 age group.

NMA is expecting over 100 runners to join the event that has become a tradition on Saipan for more than three decades.

Last year, repeat winner Keith Longuski and first-timer



Eleina Santos led the finishers of the Turkey Trot. Longuski timed in at 38:08 for his third first place honors (overall), while Santos submitted 48:49 to rule the women's overall division.

Besides the men's and women's overall top finishers, NMA will also recognize the first placers in various age groups: U12, U17, 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, and 50 and over.

Registration is available online via google form under the name 2019 Northern Marianas Athletics Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Runners head out of Lower Base during the 2018 Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run.

FINALS

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52-51, and the team still had the upper hand at the end of the third, 58-53, after drawing one basket apiece from Tom Augustin, Alex Lauron, and Sydney Quan.

Then in the fourth period, Vince Teregeyo and Quan combined for Joeten 1's first 8 points, while Lauron finished what his two teammates started, making 6 of their last 8 markers to seal the deal.

While Joeten 1 continued to have a balanced offense in the fourth canto, TDI had the opposite. Only Velasco scored more than two baskets in the final frame, while Barbo and Sean Rabasto were held to one field goal apiece and TDI had their lowest output in a quarter (11 points).

With the title in the bag in the last 30 seconds of Game

2, Joeten 1 left the ball on the floor and its players started shaking hands with their opponents as a gesture of good sportsmanship.

Lauron top-scored in Joeten 1's title-clinching win after firing 17 points, while Lilles chipped in 14, and Quan,

Teregeyo, and K.J. Kabiriel added 10 each. Velasco had 17 for TDI, while Barbo and Rabasto finished with 16 and 14, respectively.

Joeten 1 75—Lauron 17, Lilles 14, Quan 10, Karibiel 10, Teregeyo 10, Rotap 6, Duenas

5, Agustin 2, Sambile 1.

Top Development Inc. 66—Velasco 17, Barbo 16, Rabasto 14, Reyes 13, Polisco 2, Arezza 2, Sefich 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 38-32, 58-53, 75-66.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Joeten 1 players pose with their trophies and are joined in the group photo by organizers of the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



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**Doncic
outduels
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Race reaches milestone

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race recorded another feat, as he hit past the century mark, collecting the 100th and 101st title of his storied tennis career that started more than four decades ago.

Race bagged championship No. 100 after she and Lydia Tan ruled the 50 and over mixed doubles event in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis



Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan resort. Race and Tan, who both played for the CNMI National Team in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, beat the husband-and-wife tandem of Don and Marivic Dunlop in the finals, 6-3, 6-1. Race and Tan also needed only two sets to top Kyoko and Toshio Matsumura in the semis at the lower half of the draw, 6-0, 6-1. At the upper half, the Dunlops swept Mae and Kent Hsieh, too, 6-1, 6-1,

to set up the title showdown against Race and Tan.

After their morning match at the Fiesta court, Race returned to the facility late in the afternoon to team up with Guam's Sam Lai. They faced

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Jeff Race, Lydia Tan, and Marivic and Don Dunlop pose with their plaques during the awards ceremony for the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan Resort.



Finals sweep for Joeten 1

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Joeten 1 clinched the championship in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League following a 75-66 victory in Game 2 of their finals series against Top Development Inc. last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Joeten 1's Juanito Sambile, right, takes off for a layup against Top Development, Inc.'s Nestor Arreza during Game 2 of their title series in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



After cruising to an 85-66 win in Game 2, Joeten 1 was engaged by TDI in a close duel in Game 2, but still prevailed to sweep the short best-of-three title series. Joeten 1 gained some cushion in the second quarter and then hung tough in the fourth to finish off TDI.

The second period ended with Joeten 1 ahead, 38-32. Patrick Rotap delivered two triples, while Chris Lilles made one from downtown, turning the first-quarter deadlock (16-all) to a 6-point advantage at the break. Five other Joeten 1 players scored in the second period, as the eventual champion picked up where it left off in the finals opener, playing team basket-

ball to outclass TDI.

TDI, when the game resumed, managed to grab the lead from Joeten 1 twice, 49-47, after back-to-back baskets from Darwin Barbo, and at the 51-49 tally following Raymond Velasco's deuce.

However, a triple from Ernest Duenas allowed Joeten 1 to regain the driver's seat,

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Chung, Esalan stand out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United Football Club's Andrew Chung and TanHoldings Football Club's Mark Esalan emerged as the Golden Boot winners in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League.

Chung scored 12 goals in eight games in the double-round robin competition in the boys U15 age group. He was one of the only two players to earn goals in twin digits this season. The other one was Kanoa Football Club's Brian Lubao, who registered 10.

The MP United forward hit the board for MP United on four occasions with his best output (four goals) posted during their 6-1 win over Shirley's Football Club last Sept. 28. Chung collected three goals each in their 3-2 triumph against Matansa and 11-2 demolition of Shirley's and two in their 4-2 victory versus Matansa.

Lubao, on the other hand, tied MP United's Dylan Mister in the most goals (five) in a single game (versus TanHoldings), had two goals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United Football Club's Andrew Chung, left, kicks the ball out of the possession of Shirley's Football Club's Gabriel Arkoh Jr. during their boys U15 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

apiece in their 13-2 and 10-0 victories over Shirley's, and one in their 4-1 win over TanHoldings.

Mister finished in the Top 5 in the Golden Boot race after recording seven goals, just one behind TanHoldings' Kohtaro

Goto, while Kanoa's Jim Kurt Maniago also posted seven.

In the boys U18 division, Esalan's strong offensive performance in TanHoldings' last two matches earned him the Golden Boot award. He de-

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